FULL 68 PAGES

AMAZING STORIES

Sinister TALES

APPROVED COMIC

No 51

1/-

WHAT WAS THE FATE OF... "THE UNWELCOME GUEST"?

You are not welcome here, Steve Teller! Now revenge is mine!

I... I MUST BE DREAMING! THIS CAN'T BE!

Dick Giordano

STEVE TELLER HAD NO WAY OF GETTING OUT OF THE TRAP/ A RAIN-SWEPT STORMY NIGHT HAD BROUGHT HIM TO THE FOREBODING HOUSE ON THE BARREN SCOTTISH MOOR---TO SOLVE THE PUZZLE OF...

THE UNWELCOME GUEST

SINISTER TALES No. 51
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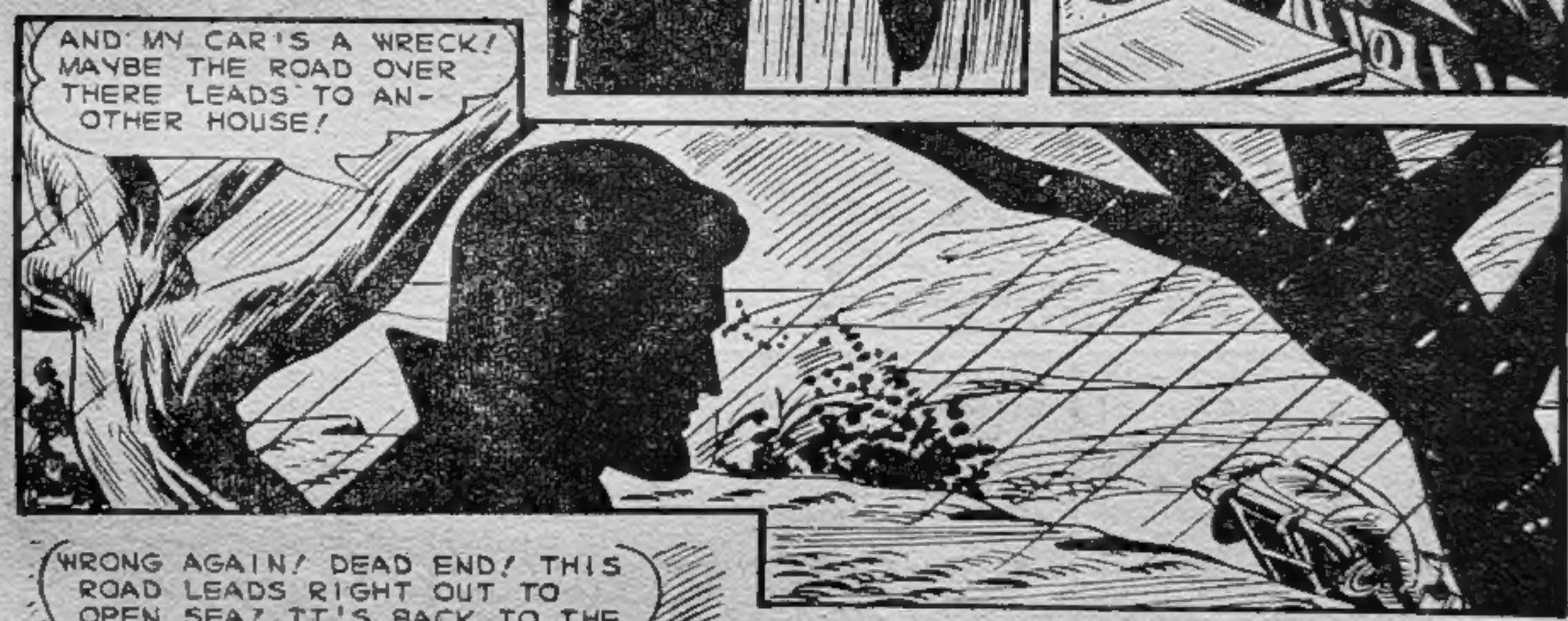
THE AMERICAN HAD INHERITED THE HOUSE OF BALRYE IN THE SCOTTISH MOORS! AS HIS VISION CAME BACK...
UNLESS I'M WRONG, I'VE FOUND MY ANCESTOR'S HOME! THIS SHIELD BEARS THE COAT-OF-ARMS OF THE TELLER CLAN!

AND MOMENTS LATER...
BROTHER--WHAT LUCK! AND WHAT A HOMECOMING! NOW IF I CAN CLIMB OUT OF HERE AND FIND A PHONE--!

IT'S NO USE! LINE'S DEAD! IT PROBABLY BROKE DOWN DURING THE STORM!


AND MY CAR'S A WRECK! MAYBE THE ROAD OVER THERE LEADS TO ANOTHER HOUSE!

WRONG AGAIN! DEAD END! THIS ROAD LEADS RIGHT OUT TO OPEN SEA! IT'S BACK TO THE HOUSE FOR TONIGHT!

BUT AS HE RETURNED TO THE HOUSE, AN UNEXPLAINED CHANGE HAD OCCURRED!
HA! HA! HA!
LIGHTS! LAUGHTER! SOMEONE'S IN THERE! LET ME IN!

GOOD LORD!

HA! HA! HA!
THEY'RE TOO SHADOWY FOR ME TO MAKE OUT! NO! IT CAN'T BE!

AND AS THE FOG SUDDENLY SWIRLED AWAY, A STRANGE SCENE CLICKED INTO VIEW--- OLD YET SINISTER...
I'M IN 17TH CENTURY SCOTLAND! AND THESE MEN LOOK FAMILIAR!

TO ARMS! A STRANGER IN OUR MIDST!
NO WONDER! THEY'RE MY OWN ANCESTORS! I'VE GOT TO ESCAPE THIS NIGHTMARE!

STEVE TELLER RAN INTO THE GLOOM OF THE CORRIDOR TOWARDS A DOOR AT THE FAR END! THROWING HIS WEIGHT DESPERATELY AGAINST THE LOCK, HE OPENED IT!
WHAT--? LOOK!!!
NOW I'M IN THE 1900'S! WORLD WAR I IS PROBABLY GOING ON RIGHT NOW!

THIS IS NO JOKE NOW A NIGHTMARE! I'VE BEEN CAUGHT IN TIME---CAUGHT IN A HOUSE FILLED WITH MY ANCESTORS!

SLAMMING THE DOOR BEHIND HIM, THE UN-WELCOME GUEST RAN TOWARDS THE THIRD DOOR THAT BECKONED IN THE SHADOWS...?
NOTHING TO LOSE NOW! THIS MUST BE THE DOOR TO THE---FUTURE!

FIGHTING BACK HIS FEAR, STEVE TELLER PUSHED OPEN THE DOOR!
IT'S THE FUTURE ALL RIGHT! BUT NO ONE'S HERE!

I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME! MAYBE THIS OTHER ROOM HAS THE ANSWER!

OH...OH...! ALMOST GOT TOUCHED BY THAT RAY! NO TELLING WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I DID! MAYBE I CAN... JUST...SQUEEZE...BY...!
ZZZMMMM
ZZMMMMMM

AND MOMENTS AFTERWARD...
WHAT IS THIS ROOM? IT LOOKS LIKE-A--A---MO-TION-PICTURE PROJECTOR!

I WAS---RIGHT! THIS FILM SHOWS PICTURES OF MY ANCESTORS-- AND ME! IT'S ALL TWISTED UP--AS IF THE OPERATOR WENT OUT FOR A MINUTE--AND FORGOT ABOUT IT!

WORKING QUICKLY BEFORE HIS BEFUDDLED SENSES TOLD HIM THIS WAS MADNESS, STEVE TELLER RETREADED THE FILM INTO PLACE...THEN...

THERE! THE FILM'S RUNNING! NOW TO THROW THIS LEVER BACK TO THE RIGHT TIME!

STOP HIM!

TOO LATE! THE TIME SHIFT IS TAKING EFFECT!

A WHIRLING SENSATION, A TEARING OF ATOMS IN HIS BRAIN, AND THAT GREAT HOUSE LOOMED OUT OF THE NIGHT AT HIM WHILE RAIN PELTED ON HIS BACK!

HA! HA, HA...

OPEN UP! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS! WHATEVER CRAZY EXPLANATION THERE IS, I WANT IT NOW!

IT'S ABOUT TIME! NOW WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

I LAUGHED TOO SOON! DR. LEROC! YOU SAID YOU COULD HELP...

GLADLY! NOW WE'LL SEE WHO'S STRONGER!
WAIT! YOU'VE GOT TO EXPLAIN!

LET FOG ENVELOP THEE! LET NOTHINGNESS FADE YOU FROM MEMORY!
HEY! I'M CHOKING IN THIS FOG! STOP---! YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE!

A HOWLING NOISE PIERCED HIS MIND AS A VORTEX OF FORCE PULLED HIM INTO THE FOG! THEN...
W-WHAT HAPPENED? I MUST HAVE...CONKED OUT! FOG STILL AROUND ME...

IT'S TIME YOU WERE TOLD, STEVE TELLER! YOU WERE HEXED OUT OF THE HOUSE BY A SPELL!
WHA--?

THE FILM OF TIME BECAME UNDONE BEFORE I COULD RETURN FROM MY ERRAND! I AM SORRY! BUT YOU'D BETTER COME WITH ME!
HEXES! SPELLS! WILL YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?

YOU WERE KILLED IN THAT AUTO ACCIDENT, SON! BUT BECAUSE OF MY ERROR WITH THE FILM YOU HAVE BEEN THAT HOUSE'S GHOST FOR CENTURIES!
END

I WAS TRAPPED IN THE ERIE UNIVERSE!

I'M TELLING THE TRUTH! WHY WON'T ANYONE BELIEVE ME? WHY?? WHY??

X-24 PLOT: STAN LEE • SCRIPT: L.D. LIEBER • ART: DON HECK

BUT SOMETIMES THE WAY HOME CAN OFFER TOO MANY TEMPTATIONS FOR A FUN-LOVING TEEN-AGER TO RESIST...

HI, TOMMY! WE'RE PLAYIN' IMMIES! C'MON, JOIN US!

OKAY! I GUESS JUST ONE GAME WON'T TAKE TOO LONG!

IMMIES--A HARMLESS GAME WHERE EACH BOY USES A SHOOTER MARBLE TO TRY TO HIT THE OTHER MARBLES OUT OF THE CIRCLE!

HEY! I FOUND A MARBLE! A REAL BIG ONE! IT'LL MAKE A KEEN SHOOTER!

WOW! LOOK AT IT GLOW! I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE LIKE THIS BEFORE!

IT'S YOUR TURN, TOMMY!

BUT JUST AS TOMMY IS ABOUT TO ENTER THE SIMPLE GAME, HE FEELS A STRANGE SENSATION LIKE A STRANGE SHOCK...

IT LASTS BUT A MOMENT AND THE YOUNGSTER PAYS IT NO HEED, FOR HE'S TOO EAGER TO JOIN HIS FRIENDS...

GOOD SHOT!

THE GAME CONTINUES WITHOUT FURTHER MISHAP AND WHEN IT'S OVER, TOMMY LEAVES...

I WON SEVEN MARBLES WITH THIS SWELL SHOOTER! I WAS SURE LUCKY TO FIND IT!

BUT NOW I'D BETTER THINK ABOUT TOMORROW'S HISTORY TEST! I'LL START STUDYING AS SOON AS I GET IN THE HOUSE!

FUNNY... MY KEY DOESN'T WORK! THE LOCK MUST BE STUCK! I'LL HAFTA RING THE BELL!

RING

SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR! I'LL ANSWER IT, MA!

GING

AND WHEN THE DOOR OPENS ...WHEN TOMMY SEES HIM STANDING THERE... HIS HEART ALL BUT STOPS!!

YES... CAN I HELP YOU?

FOR A MOMENT THE BOY CAN'T EVEN SPEAK! HE JUST STANDS, STARING INCREDULOUSLY AT THE IMPOSSIBLE...

I SAID, "CAN I HELP YOU?" WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE?

I'M TOMMY JORDAN! I LIVE HERE!

WHAT IS THIS? SOME KIND OF GAG?

WHO'S AT THE DOOR, TOMMY?

SOME JOKER WHO CLAIMS TO BE ME, MA!

MOM, WHO'S HE?? WHAT'S HE DOING IN OUR HOUSE??

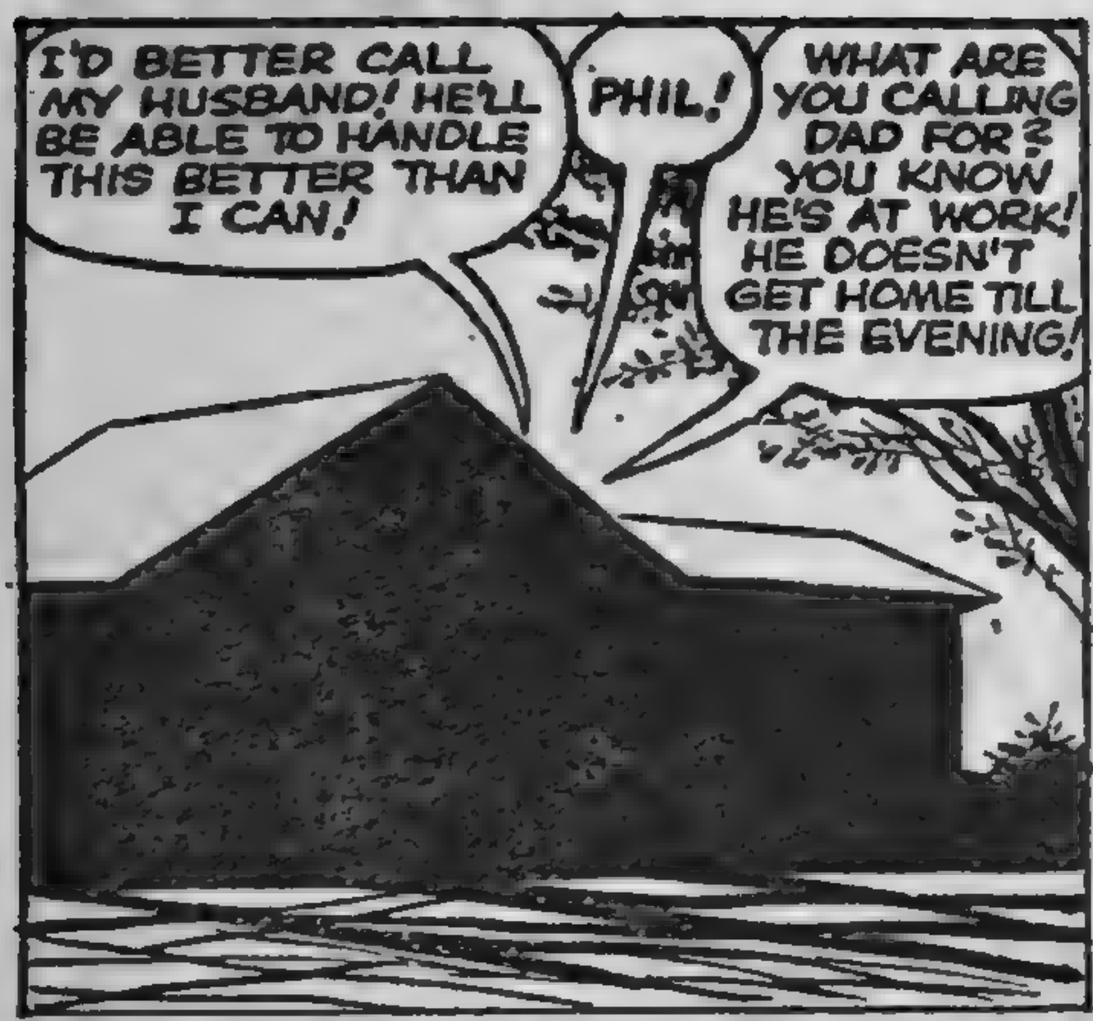
HE'S MY SON TOMMY! HE LIVES HERE! BUT WHY SHOULD I EXPLAIN IT TO YOU? WHO ARE YOU??

WHO AM I?!! MA, CUT IT OUT! IT'S NOT FUNNY! LOOK AT ME! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME??

NO! YOU BEAR A STRONG RESEMBLANCE TO MY SON, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE!

NEVER SEEN ME??! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?? I-I'M TOMMY--YOUR SON!

LOOK, FELLA, YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS! WHY DON'T YOU GO ON HOME, HUH!

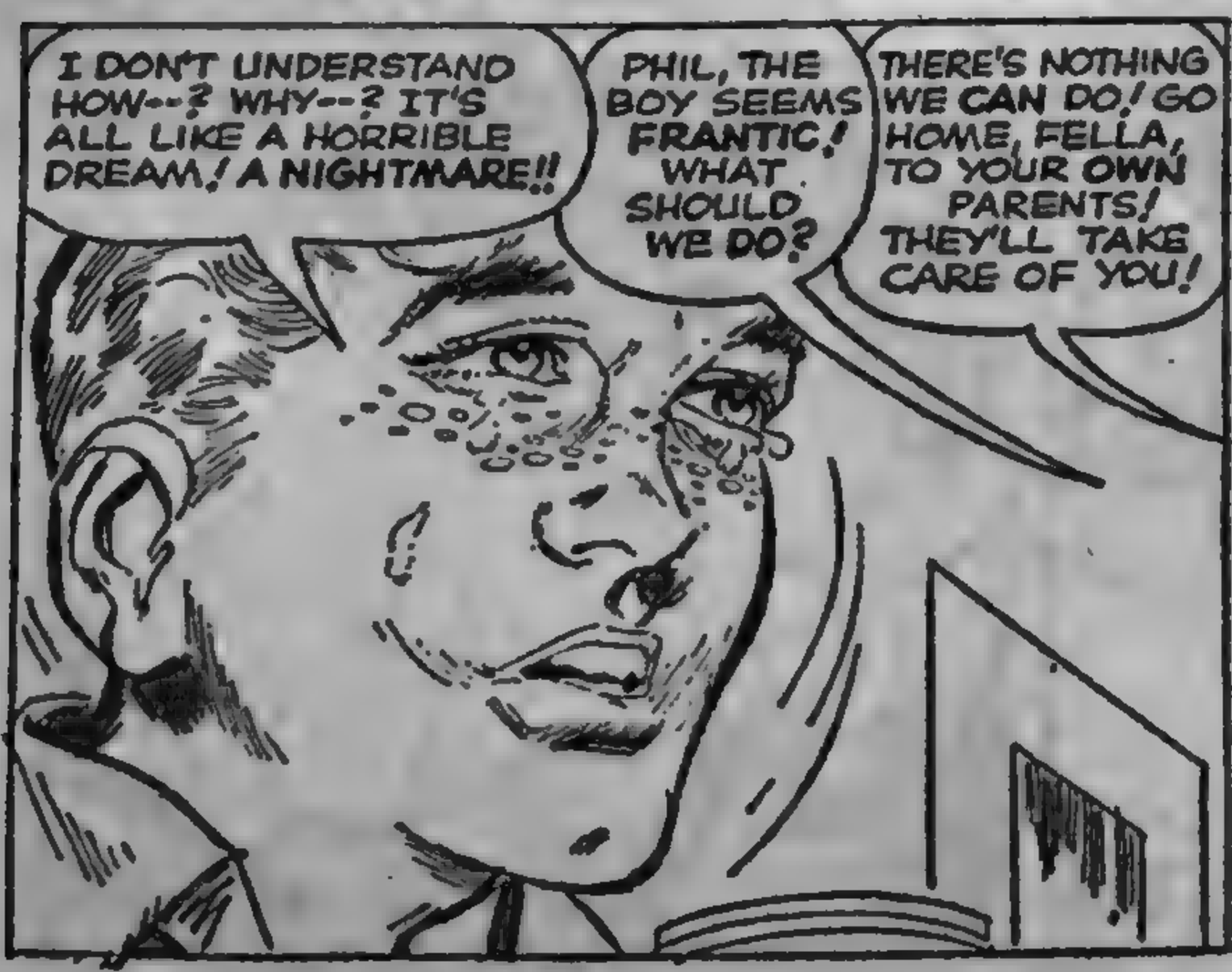

I'D BETTER CALL MY HUSBAND! HE'LL BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS BETTER THAN I CAN!
PHIL!
WHAT ARE YOU CALLING DAD FOR? YOU KNOW HE'S AT WORK! HE DOESN'T GET HOME TILL THE EVENING!

BUT TO TOMMY'S FURTHER ASTONISHMENT...
PHIL, THIS BOY CLAIMS THAT WE'RE HIS PARENTS!
HIS PARENTS?? LOOK, FELLA, WE'RE A FRIENDLY FAMILY BUT WE DON'T CARE MUCH FOR GAGS! SO YOU'D BETTER LEAVE!

B-BUT THIS IS MY HOME!! I LIVE HERE!! WHAT'S HAPPENED?? WHY DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME??
HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY RECOGNIZE YOU WHEN WE'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE??

WAIT! THERE'S GINGER! C'MON OVER HERE! C'MON, GIRL-- SHOW 'EM THAT YOU KNOW ME!

GRRRRRR...
OH NO! NOT YOU, TOO!!


I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW--? WHY--? IT'S ALL LIKE A HORRIBLE DREAM! A NIGHTMARE!!
PHIL, THE BOY SEEMS FRANTIC! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO! GO HOME, FELLA, TO YOUR OWN PARENTS! THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!

BUT YOU--YOU'RE MY PARENTS! HOW CAN I PROVE IT?? -SOB- HOW?!!

FINALLY, IN A BLIND PANIC, THE BEWILDERED AND FRIGHTENED YOUNGSTER RUNS FROM THE HOUSE...

THEY DIDN'T KNOW ME! THEY THOUGHT I WAS A STRANGER! A **STRANGER!!**

WITH HIS HEART POUNDING AND TEARS STREAKING DOWN HIS CHEEK, TOMMY JORDAN RACES AIMLESSLY THROUGH THE STREETS...

NO HOME! NO PARENTS! WHAT'LL I DO?? WHERE'LL I GO??

AND THEN, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, HE COMES UPON THE BOYS WITH WHOM HE HAD PLAYED EARLIER...

I TELL YA WE DON'T HAVE IT, MISTER!

THERE'S THE ONE WHO FOUND IT! ASK HIM!!

YOU! STOP!! I MUST TALK TO YOU!!

DID YOU FIND A ROUND GLOWING OBJECT THAT LOOKS LIKE A LARGE MARBLE?

MARBLE?...OH YEAH...BEFORE ...WHEN I WAS PLAYING IMMIES...

HERE IT IS!

THAT'S IT! WHAT A STROKE OF WONDERFUL FORTUNE! I LOST IT THROUGH MY OWN CARELESSNESS! BUT NOW I'VE FOUND IT AGAIN! GIVE IT TO ME!

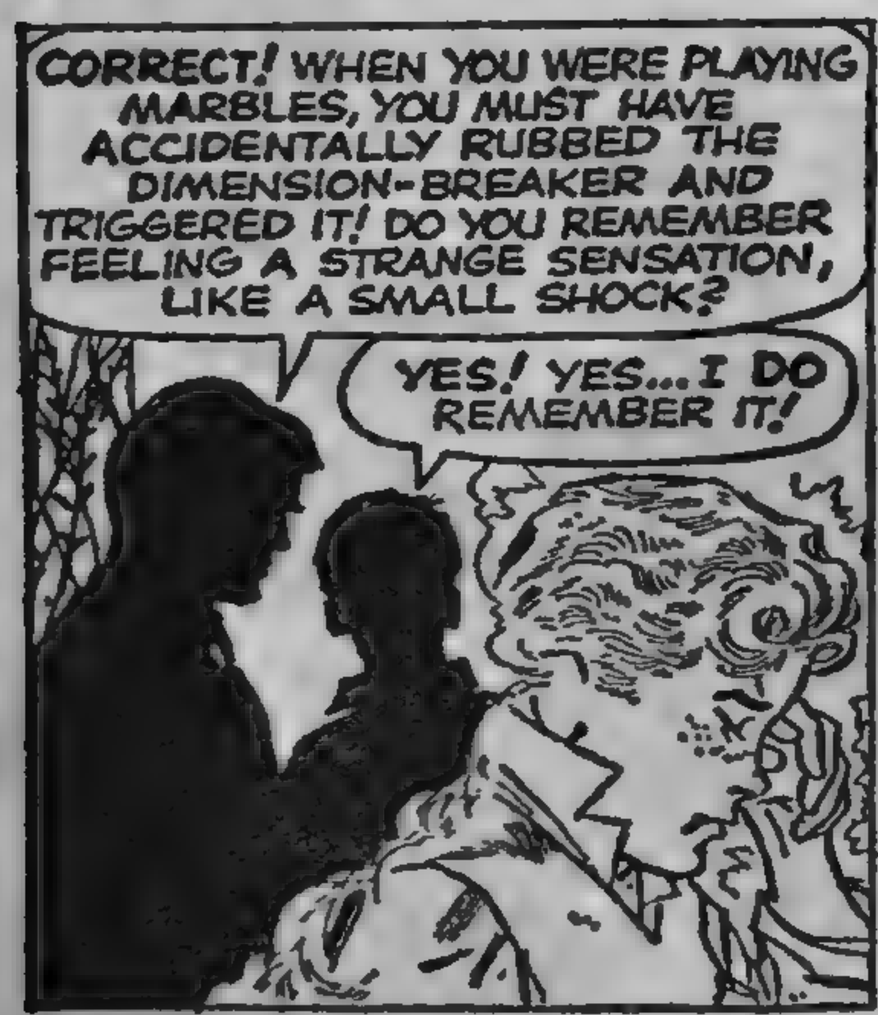
SURE! BUT WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT A **MARBLE?** WHATTA YOU WANT IT FOR?

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THIS ISN'T A **MARBLE!** IT JUST **LOOKS** LIKE ONE!

IT'S AN ELECTRONIC DIMENSION-BREAKER! WE CITIZENS OF THE YEAR 3,000, USE IT FOR EXPLORATORY TRAVEL!

YOU SEE, THE UNIVERSE CONTAINS COUNTLESS DIMENSIONS WHICH EXIST AT THE SAME TIME, ALONGSIDE EACH OTHER!
MOST OF THESE WORLDS ARE VERY DIFFERENT... VERY STRANGE...

BUT THIS DIMENSION IS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO YOURS!
THIS DIMENSION? THEN YOU MEAN THAT THIS ISN'T-- ISN'T MY OWN WORLD?


CORRECT! WHEN YOU WERE PLAYING MARBLES, YOU MUST HAVE ACCIDENTALLY RUBBED THE DIMENSION-BREAKER AND TRIGGERED IT! DO YOU REMEMBER FEELING A STRANGE SENSATION, LIKE A SMALL SHOCK?
YES! YES...I DO REMEMBER IT!

WELL, IN THAT FATEFUL SECOND, AN ELECTRONIC FORCE, MANY TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION, SPLIT OPEN THE BARRIER OF THIS DIMENSION AND SENT YOU THROUGH IT!

THAT'S HOW YOU CAME TO BE HERE, IN ANOTHER WORLD ...ONE WHICH IS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO YOUR OWN!
THIS EXPLAINS EVERYTHING! WHY THAT HOUSE LOOKED LIKE MINE, BUT MY KEY COULDN'T OPEN THE DOOR!

"AND NOW I REMEMBER...THAT OTHER KID WHO LOOKED LIKE ME! HE PARTED HIS HAIR ON THE RIGHT SIDE, WHILE I PART MINE ON THE LEFT!"

"EVEN THE DOG WAS A LITTLE DIFFERENT! SHE HAD A SPOT! BUT MY GINGER HAS NO SPOTS! AND THAT MAN AND WOMAN--THEY LOOKED LIKE MY PARENTS, BUT THEY WERE TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE! IT'S--IT'S FANTASTIC!!

AND NOW IF YOU'RE READY, I'LL RETURN YOU TO YOUR OWN DIMENSION!
MISTER, I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE READY FOR ANYTHING IN MY LIFE!

THEN HOLD STILL, WHILE I ADJUST THE ELECTRONIC APPARATUS! THERE! THE BEAM IS TOUCHING YOU! FAREWELL, YOUNG MAN!

AND IN THE NEXT MILLIONTH OF A SECOND, TOMMY JORDAN JOURNEYS OUT OF ONE DIMENSION...

...AND INTO ANOTHER!
I'M BACK--BACK IN MY OWN WORLD AGAIN!!

AS HE RACES HOME FROM SCHOOL, THE TEEN-AGER AGAIN PASSES THE BOYS PLAYING MARBLES...
HEY, TOMMY, HOW ABOUT ANOTHER GAME OF IMMIES?
YEAH, C'MON, JOIN US!
7

WHAT ARE YOU, SOME KINDA NUTS OR SOMETHING??

I'VE GOT STUDYING TO DO!!
THE END

THE ASTONISHING
ANT-MAN!
"THE DAY THAT ANT-MAN FAILED!"
PLOT: STAN LEE
SCRIPT: L.D. LIEBER
ART: JACK KIRBY
INKING: SOL BRODSKY
LETTERING: ART SIMEK
X-23
1

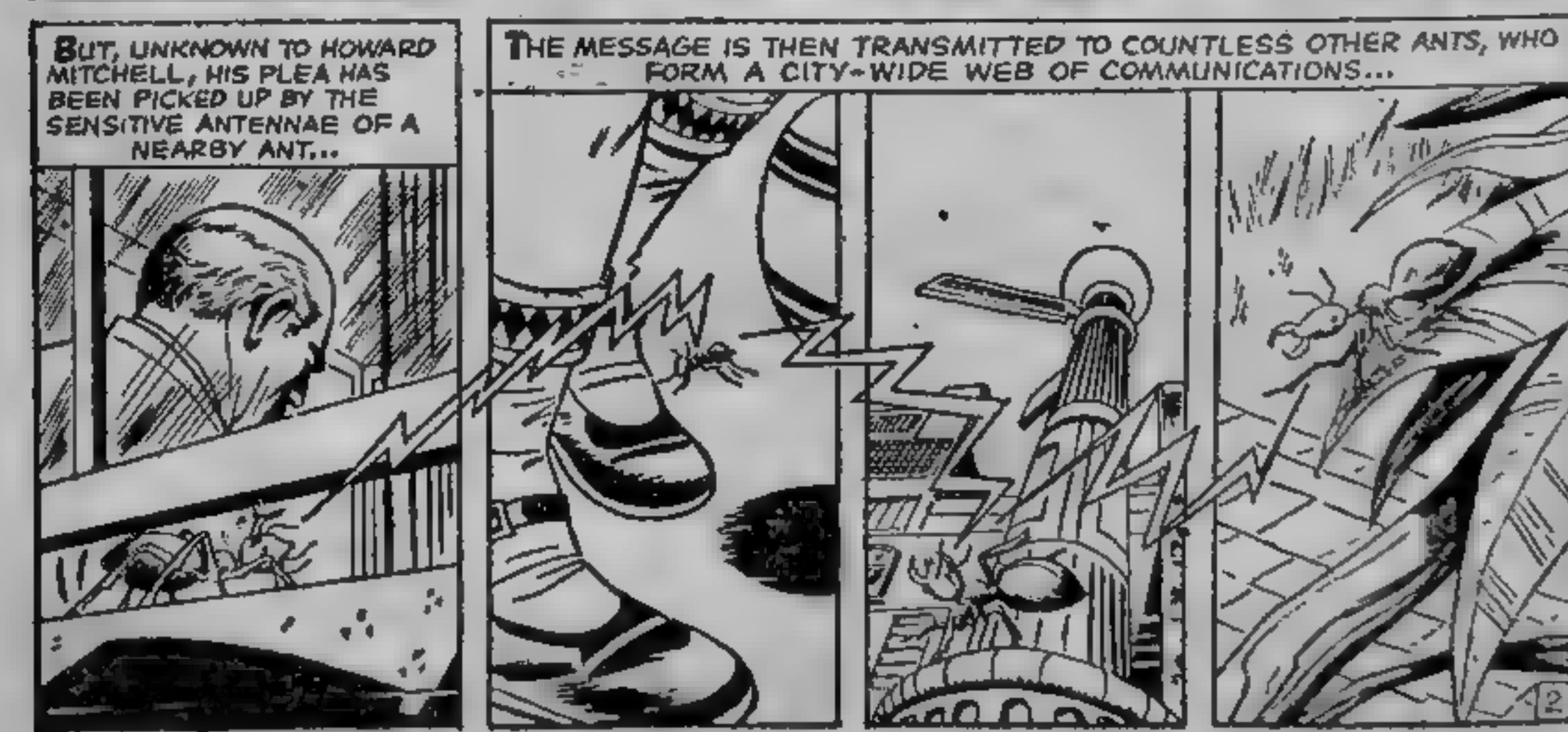
OUR STARTLING ANT-MAN TALE BEGINS WITH HENRY PYM! FOR THE INSECT-SIZED ADVENTURER AND THE BRILLIANT SCIENTIST ARE SECRETLY ONE AND THE SAME PERSON!
THE ARMY WILL BE PLEASED WITH THE NEW GAS MASK I'M INVENTING! IT'S MADE OF UNSTABLE MOLECULES WHICH ADJUST THEMSELVES TO THE SIZE OF THE WEARER'S HEAD!

MEANWHILE, MILES AWAY, TWO DAZED FIGURES STAGGER TOWARD THE CITY...
I-I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED!
ME NEITHER! MY MIND'S JUST A BLANK!

WHEN THE GUARDS REACH THE CITY, THE NEWS IS MADE PUBLIC...
EXTRA! HIJACKER STRIKES AGAIN!
HE'S MADE OFF WITH ANOTHER ARMORED TRUCK CARRYING A HUGE PAYROLL!
AND THE GUARDS CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING OF THE ROBBERY! IT'S UNCANNY!
HIJACKER IN NEW CRIME

BUT TO HOWARD MITCHELL, OWNER OF THE MITCHELL ARMORED TRUCK CO., IT'S MORE THAN UNCANNY! IT'S APALLING!
WHAT KIND OF PRIVATE GUARDS ARE YOU? ANOTHER ROBBERY, AND HAVE YOU CAUGHT THE HIJACKER? NO!!
BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO GO ON! NO CLUES!

NO CLUES! GREAT! WHEN THE HIJACKER HAS PUT ME OUT OF BUSINESS, I'LL TELL MY CREDITORS THAT THERE WERE NO CLUES!
BAH! IT'S USELESS! ONLY THE ANT-MAN WOULD BE CLEVER ENOUGH TO CATCH THE HIJACKER! IF I ONLY KNEW HOW TO CONTACT HIM!


BUT, UNKNOWN TO HOWARD MITCHELL, HIS PLEA HAS BEEN PICKED UP BY THE SENSITIVE ANTENNAE OF A NEARBY ANT...
THE MESSAGE IS THEN TRANSMITTED TO COUNTLESS OTHER ANTS, WHO FORM A CITY-WIDE WEB OF COMMUNICATIONS...

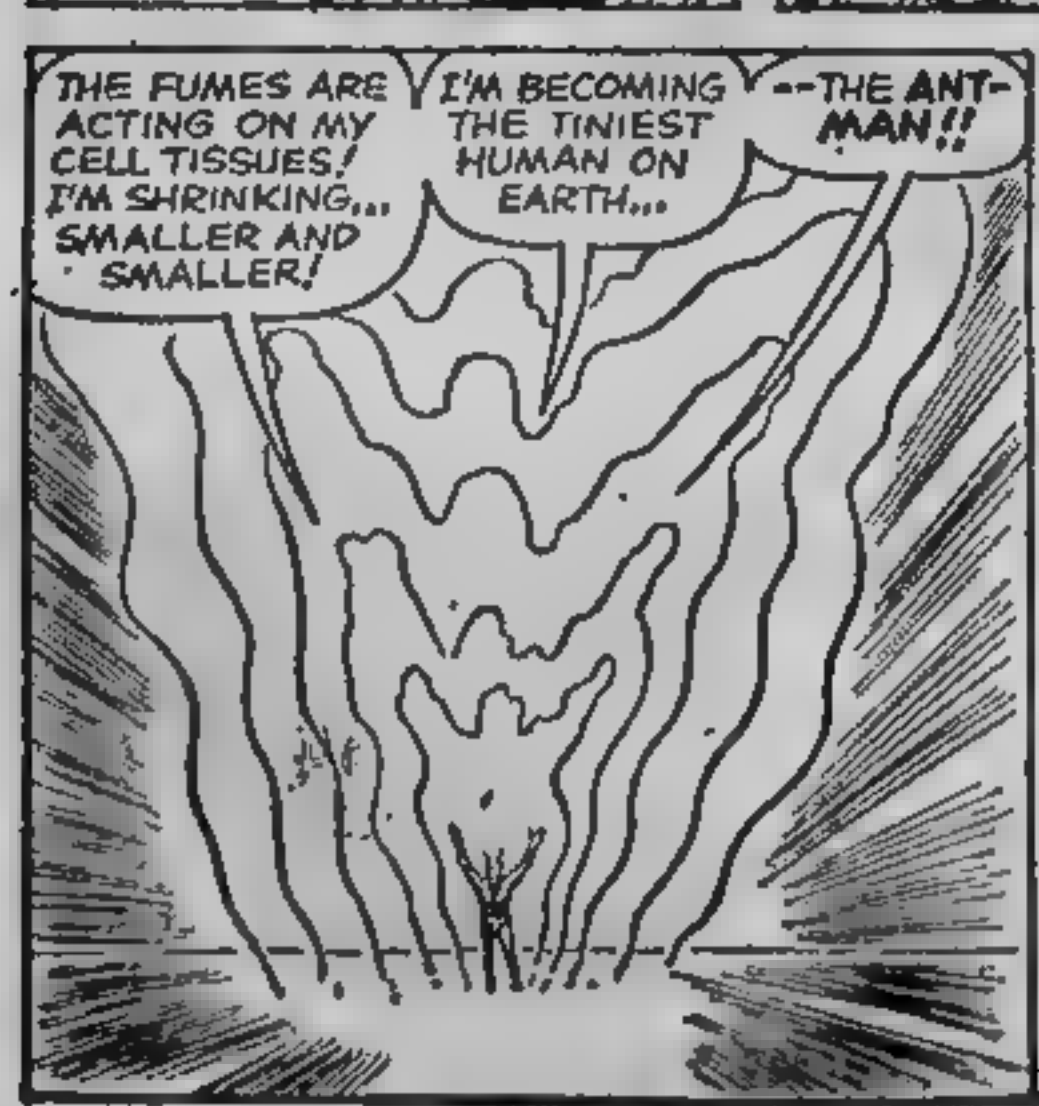
...UNTIL FINALLY, THE MESSAGE REACHES THE NERVE CENTER OF THE FANTASTIC NETWORK!
THERE! I'VE FINISHED THE ADJUSTABLE GAS MASK!
OH, OH--MY ALARM IS BUZZING! THE ANTS MUST BE TRYING TO CONTACT ME!
BZZZZZZZZZ

I'D BETTER GO TO THE SECRET COMMUNICATIONS ROOM AND SEE WHAT'S UP!

MOMENTS LATER...
ELECTRONIC IMPULSES COMING IN! THEY ORIGINATE FROM SECTOR 12!

THE ASTONISHING SCIENTIST PUTS ON HIS CYBERNETIC HELMET, WHICH SOON TRANSLATES THE INCOMING SIGNALS INTO AN INTELLIGIBLE FORM!
HOWARD MITCHELL WANTS TO CONTACT ANT-MAN...
SOUNDS LIKE TROUBLE! AND THAT'S MY MIDDLE NAME! I'LL JUST CHANGE INTO MY COSTUME!

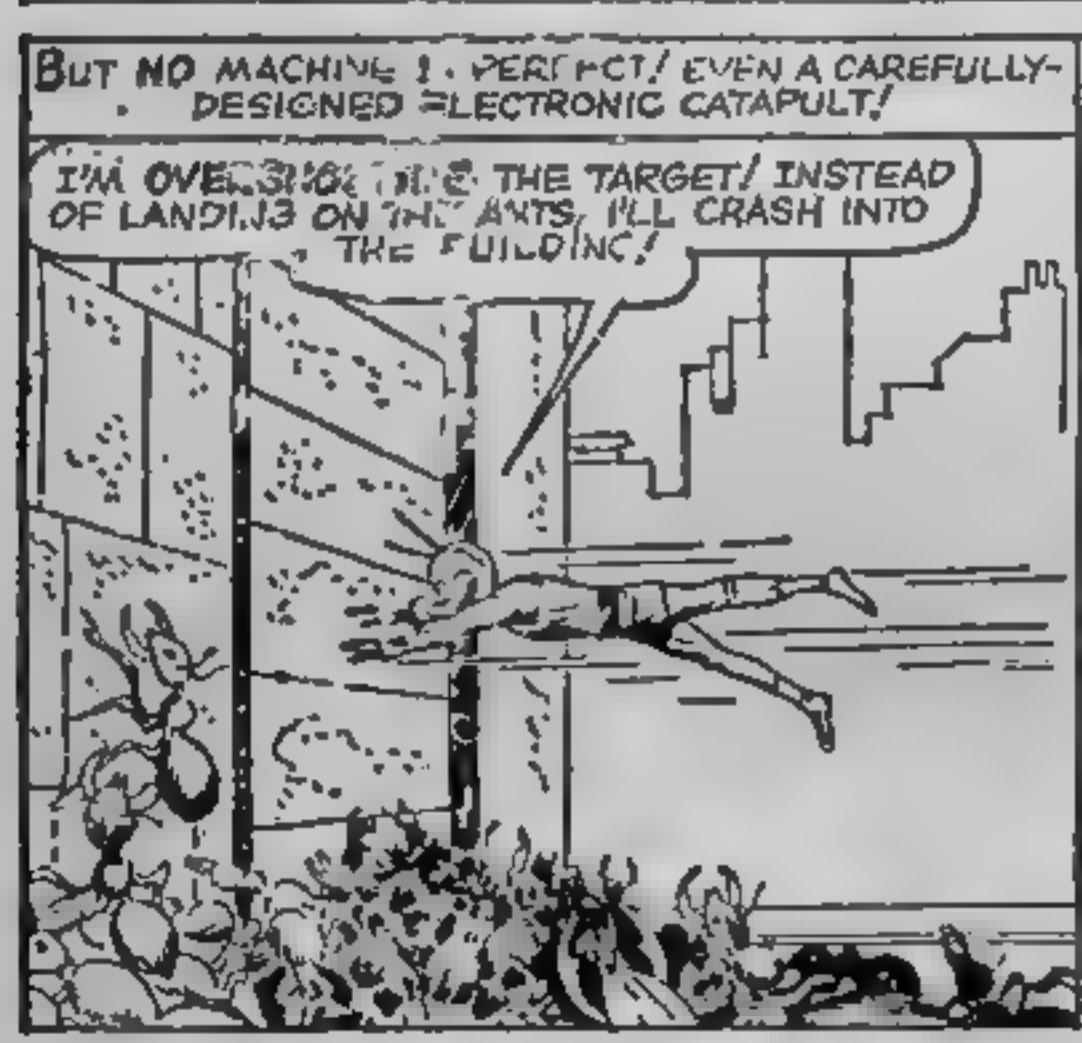
NOW I MERELY RELEASE THE REDUCING GAS I DEVELOPED!

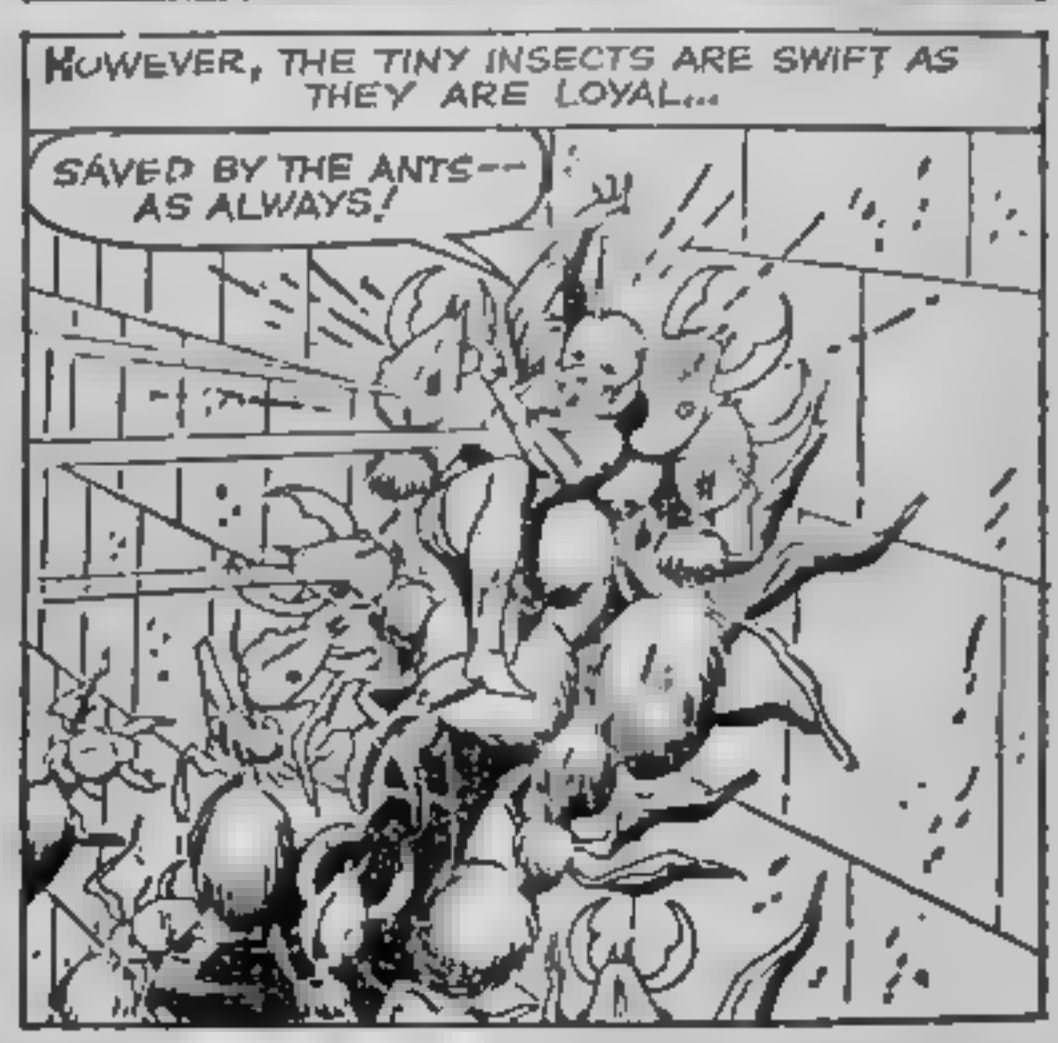

THE FUMES ARE ACTING ON MY CELL TISSUES! I'M SHRINKING... SMALLER AND SMALLER!
I'M BECOMING THE TINIEST HUMAN ON EARTH...
--THE ANT-MAN!!

THE INCREDIBLE CRIME-FIGHTER THEN ENTERS HIS SPECIALLY-BUILT CATAPULT!
I'LL ADJUST THE ELECTRONIC CONTROLS TO ROCKET ME TO THE STREET OUTSIDE OF MITCHELL'S OFFICE!

THE CONTROLS ARE ADJUSTED, THE RELEASE BUTTON IS TRIGGERED...
...AND I'M ON MY WAY!
VOOOOOOMM

AS HE FLIES ABOVE THE CITY, THE COLORFULLY-CLAD FIGURE USES HIS CYBERNETIC TRANSMITTER TO SEND OUT IMPULSES, WHICH THE ANTS DETECT AND FOLLOW...
MY LITTLE PALS ARE CONVERGING RIGHT ON TARGET! THEY'LL CUSHION MY FALL!


BUT NO MACHINE IS PERFECT! EVEN A CAREFULLY-DESIGNED ELECTRONIC CATAPULT!
I'M OVERSHOOTING THE TARGET! INSTEAD OF LANDING ON THE ANTS, I'LL CRASH INTO THE BUILDING!


HOWEVER, THE TINY INSECTS ARE SWIFT AS THEY ARE LOYAL...
SAVED BY THE ANTS-- AS ALWAYS!

ALRIGHT, LITTLE PAL, YOU'RE BETTER EQUIPPED TO CLIMB WALLS THAN I AM, SO GIVE ME A LIFT UP TO THAT WINDOW! THAT'S IT... STEADY... STEADY...
MITCHELL ARMORED TRUCK CO.

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, MITCHELL?
ANT-MAN! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU KNEW TO COME-- BUT THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE HERE!

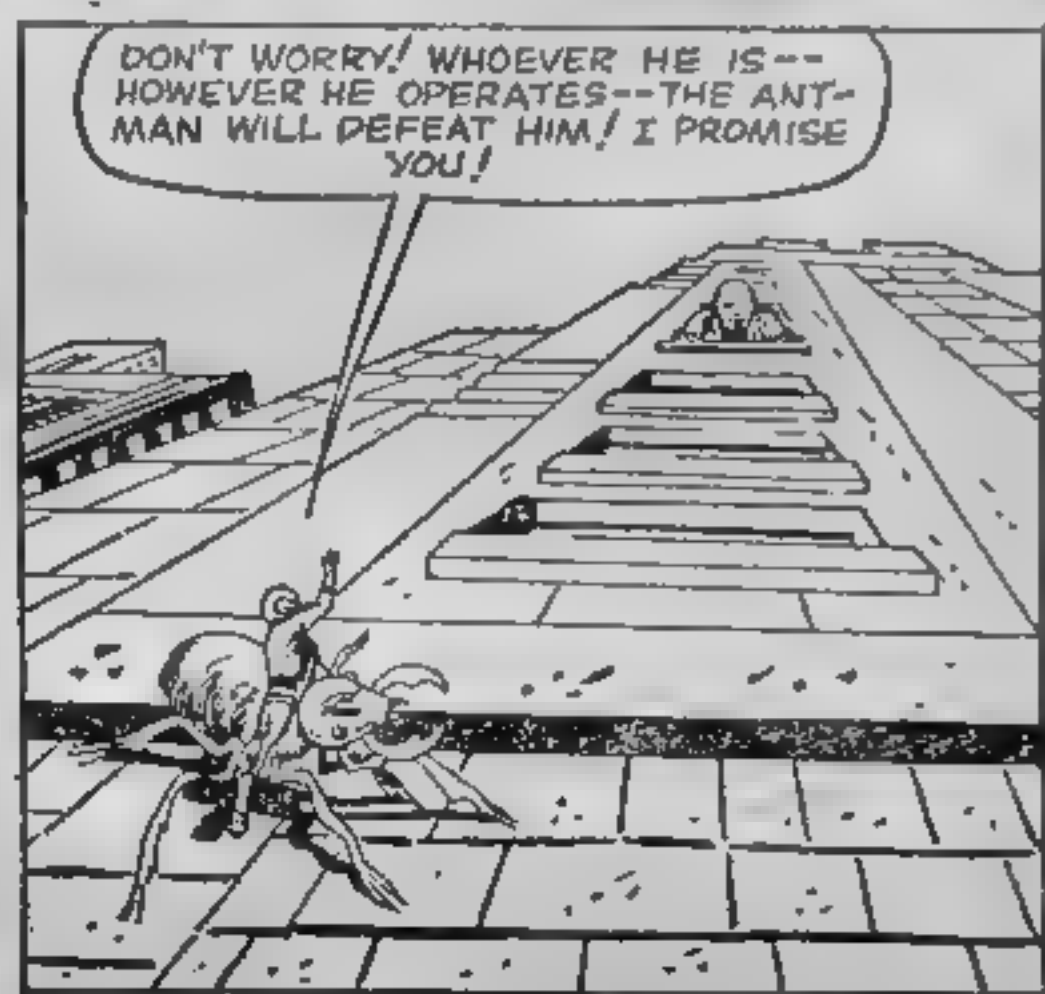
FOUR OF MY ARMORED TRUCKS CARRYING PAYROLLS WERE STOLEN! AFTER EACH ROBBERY THE GUARDS WERE FOUND DAZED, UNABLE TO REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED!
MY GUARDS ARE BAFFLED! THEY'VE NO IDEA WHO THE HIJACKER IS, NOR HOW HE MADE OFF WITH THE TRUCKS!

YOU MUST HELP ME, ANT-MAN! YOU MUST CATCH THE HIJACKER! I CAN'T AFFORD ANY MORE ROBBERIES!
EVEN THOUGH THE PAYROLLS WERE INSURED, EACH TIME THEY WERE STOLEN, I LOST A CUSTOMER! IF IT CONTINUES, I'LL SOON BE OUT OF BUSINESS!

THEN YOUR COMPETITORS STAND TO BENEFIT BY THESE ROBBERIES! HMMMMNN...
ALL RIGHT, MITCHELL, LISTEN! I WANT YOU TO ANNOUNCE THAT ONE OF YOUR ARMORED TRUCKS WILL CARRY A HUGE PAYROLL TOMORROW!

BUT IF THE SHIPMENT IS ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE, THE HIJACKER WILL BE CERTAIN TO STRIKE!
THAT'S WHAT I'M COUNTING ON! AND WHEN HE AMBUSHES THE TRUCK, HE'LL FIND ME THERE-- WAITING TO TRAP HIM!

BY THE WAY, THAT'S AN INTERESTING COLLECTION OF PRIMITIVE ART! INCA, ISN'T IT?
YES! I WAS IN PERU LAST YEAR! I SPENT SOME TIME WITH THE INDIANS IN THE JUNGLE! BUT THAT'S UNIMPORTANT NOW! ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT YOU CATCH THE HIJACKER!


DON'T WORRY! WHOEVER HE IS-- HOWEVER HE OPERATES--THE ANT-MAN WILL DEFEAT HIM! I PROMISE YOU!

AND SO, THE NEXT DAY...
I DON'T LIKE IT! IT'S TOO RISKY! EVERYBODY KNOWS ABOUT THE SHIPMENT, INCLUDING, YOU CAN BET, THE HIJACKER!
THAT'S THE IDEA...

WE WANT THAT GUY TO STRIKE AGAIN SO THE ANT-MAN CAN CATCH HIM!
ANT-MAN! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D BE ALONG!
NOW AT LEAST THE ODDS ARE IN OUR FAVOR!

BUT SCARCELY HAS ANT-MAN RECEIVED THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, WHEN...

OHHH--

WHAT'S THE MATTER??

I'VE GOT A PAIN! UHHH--IT'S GETTING WORSE! I THINK IT'S...APPENDICITIS!

OH, NO! NOT NOW, OF ALL TIMES!

HOW--HOW WILL YOU BATTLE THE HIJACKER?

C-CAN'T! I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT HIM NOW! I MUST GET TO A DOCTOR.... BEFORE MY APPENDIX RUPTURES!

HURRY, LITTLE FRIEND! UHHH! HURRY...

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

WITHOUT ANT-MAN'S PROTECTION, THE TRIP WILL BE TOO DANGEROUS! I'M FOR CALLING IT OFF!

BLAST THE LUCK! I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO CALL IT OFF! BUT I'M ALREADY COMMITTED! I'D LOSE ANOTHER CUSTOMER!

AND SO THE ARMORED TRUCK LEAVES, CARRYING A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY AND THREE FEARFUL GUARDS!

IT'S THE FIRST TIME THE ANT-MAN'S EVER FAILED ANYONE!

WELL, HE'S ONLY HUMAN! EVEN HE CAN GET SICK SOME TIME!

MITCHELL ARMORED TRUCK CO.

SOON THE TRUCK IS BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS...

I DON'T LIKE THIS ROAD! IT'S TOO LONELY!

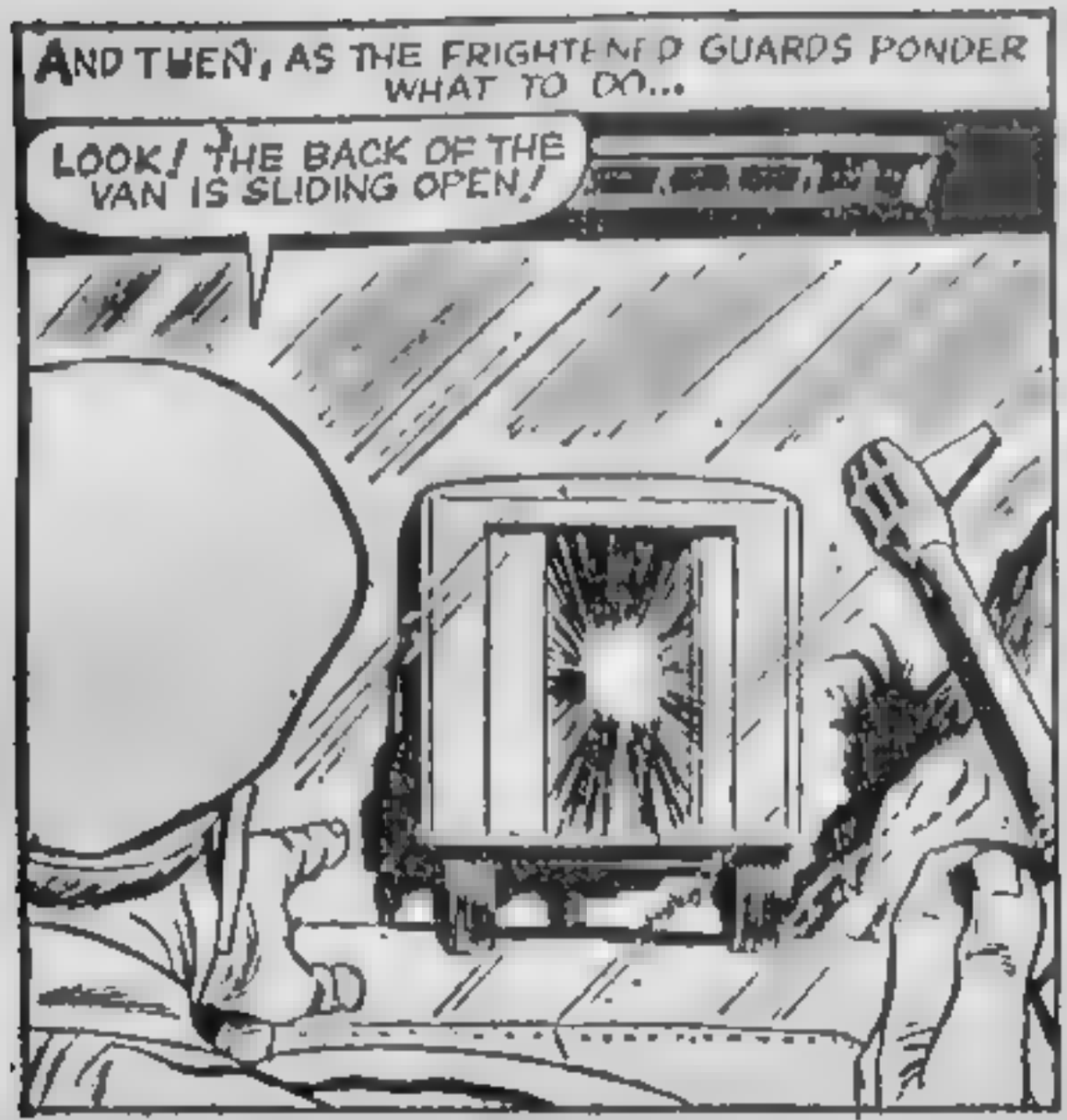
AT LEAST, WE HAVE PLENTY OF GUNS AND AMMO!

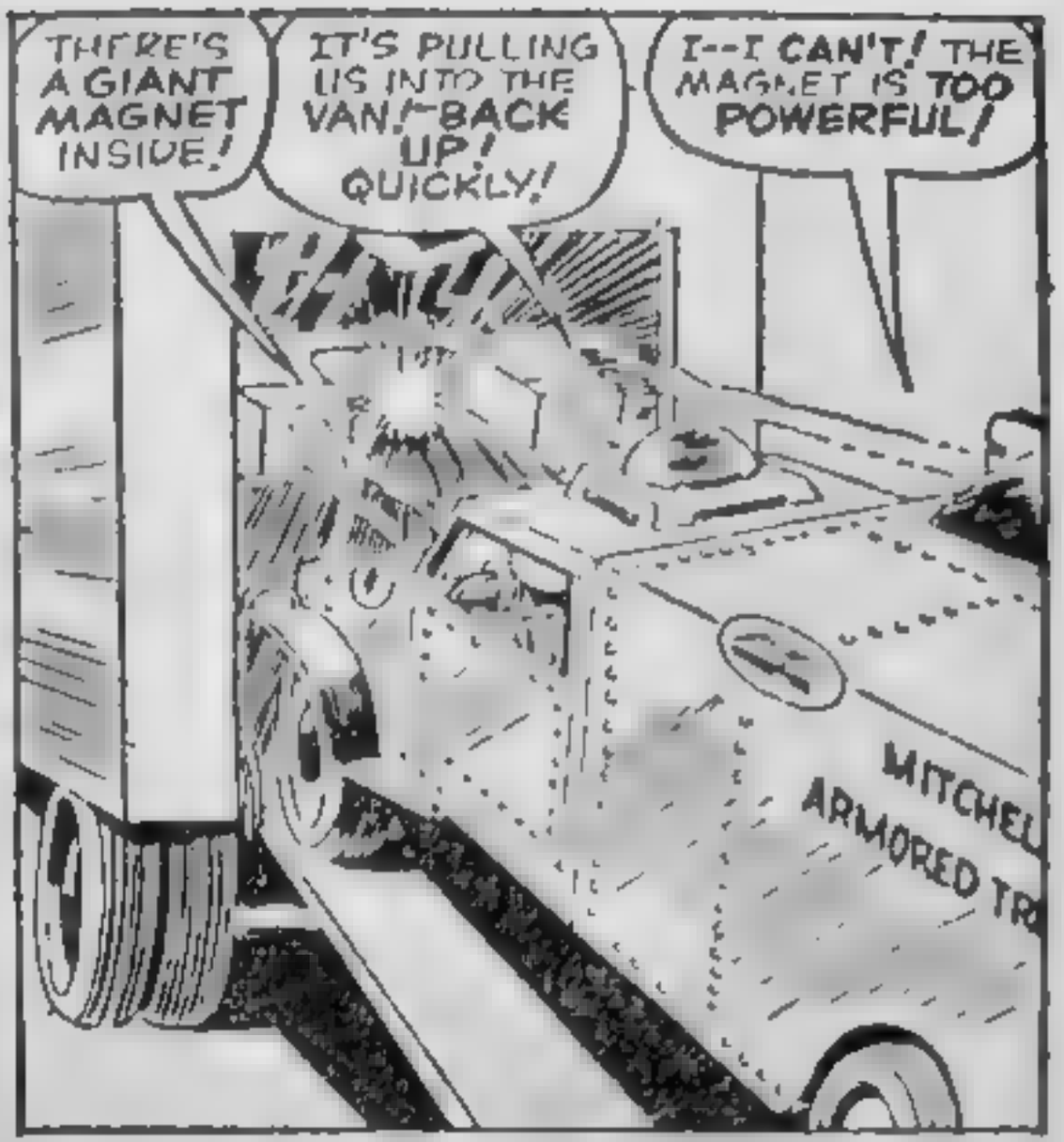
SO HAD THE OTHER GUARDS! AND IT DIDN'T HELP --WAIT!! THERE'S SOMETHING UP AHEAD, BLOCKING THE ROAD!

IT'S A MOVING VAN— STALLED!

LOOKS LIKE MOTOR TROUBLE! WE'LL HAVE TO HELP THE GUY FIX IT, SO WE CAN GET PAST!

NO! THE HIJACKER MAY BE AROUND! IT'S NOT SAFE FOR US TO LEAVE THE TRUCK!


AND THEN, AS THE FRIGHTENED GUARDS PONDER WHAT TO DO...
LOOK! THE BACK OF THE VAN IS SLIDING OPEN!


THERE'S A GIANT MAGNET INSIDE!
IT'S PULLING US INTO THE VAN! BACK UP! QUICKLY!
I--I CAN'T! THE MAGNET IS TOO POWERFUL!
MITCHEL
ARMORED TR

THE DOOR OF THE VAN HAS CLOSED AGAIN!
WE'RE TRAPPED IN HERE!
WHAT'LL WE DO??

LOOK! HE MUST BE THE--THE--
THE HI-JACKER !!
EXACTLY! AND AS THE SPIDER SAID TO THE FLY, "WELCOME, SUCKERS!"

NOW TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!
GAS !!
IT'S SEEPING INTO THE TRUCK!
I'M DIZZY ...I... I CAN'T STAND...

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
BY NOW THEY MUST BE ALL UNCONSCIOUS! I'LL OPEN THE LOCKED DOOR OF THEIR TRUCK WITH A BLOW-TORCH AND DUMP THE GUARDS OUT ON THE ROAD! BY THE TIME THEY COME TO AGAIN, I'LL BE LONG GONE!
CLEVER PLAN! TOO BAD IT'S GOING TO FAIL!

THE ANT-MAN! B-BUT--HOW??!!
I FIGURED YOU MIGHT NOT STRIKE IF YOU THOUGHT I WAS IN THE TRUCK... SO I FEIGNED ILLNESS AND PRETENDED TO STAY BEHIND!

"BUT INSTEAD OF GOING TO A DOCTOR, I COMMANDED THE ANT TO CARRY ME TO A NEARBY ALLEY, WHERE I HAD A SIMPLE CATAPULT SET UP..."
I MERELY GET INTO POSITION, AND THEN RELEASE THE RUBBER BAND WHICH IS AIMED AT THE ROOF!

...AND UP I GO!
WHOOOSSSH!

A PERFECT SHOT!
AND THERE'S MY TINY MODEL PLANE, COMPLETE WITH A GAS ENGINE-- ALL READY AND WAITING FOR ME!

"A MOMENT LATER, I WAS IN THE AIR, FOLLOWING THE ARMORED TRUCK..."

"WHEN THE GUARDS STOPPED FOR YOUR MOVING VAN, I SUSPECTED IT WAS A TRAP, SO I LANDED ON THE ARMORED TRUCK, WHEN IT WAS DRAWN IN BY YOUR GIANT MAGNET..."
THE HIJACKER'S GAS ATTACK WILL BE A GOOD TEST FOR THE NEW GAS MASK I DEVELOPED!"

SO YOU THINK YOU'VE OUT-SMARTED ME! FOOL! YOU ONLY OUT-SMARTED YOURSELF, FOR YOU SHALL NEVER ESCAPE FROM HERE!
YOU'LL HAVE TO MOVE FASTER THAN THAT, CHUM!
BAH! YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM ME IN THERE! I'LL OPEN THAT TRUCK'S DOOR THE SAME WAY I OPENED THE OTHERS!

BUT WHILE THE MENACING HIJACKER BURNS THROUGH THE DOOR, THE ANT-MAN USES THE PRECIOUS SECONDS TO SEND FOR HELP...

MY HELMET'S ELECTRONIC SIGNALS WILL BE PICKED UP BY ALL THE ANTS IN THE AREA!

AND NO SOONER HAS THE MESSAGE BEEN SENT...

I MISSED AGAIN! BUT YOU CAN'T ESCAPE!

I'LL HIDE IN THE IGNITION!

BUT NO SOONER DOES THE ANT-MAN CRAWL INTO THE TINY SPACE THEN THE HIJACKER TURNS THE KEY...

=WHEW!= IT ALMOST CRUSHED ME!

AND SECONDS LATER, THE ENGINE ROARS...

THE VIBRATIONS! THEY'VE THROWN ME OFF BALANCE!

I'M FALLING...

BOOOOOM

MADE IT! I'LL BE SAFE HERE ATOP THE ENGINE BLOCK-- AT LEAST FOR A MOMENT!

BUT THAT MOMENT IS SHORT-LIVED, FOR SUDDENLY...

THE NOISE--IT'S SO LOUD! I CAN'T STAND IT!

BEEEEPP BEEEEPP

HAH! HAH! THIS HORN MUST SOUND A THOUSAND TIMES LOUDER TO THE ANT-MAN, THAN IT WOULD TO A NORMAL SIZED PERSON!

BEEEEEEEPP

I'VE GOT TO REACH THE WIRES THAT CONNECT THE HORN, BEFORE THE NOISE DEAFENS ME!
BEEEEEEEEP!

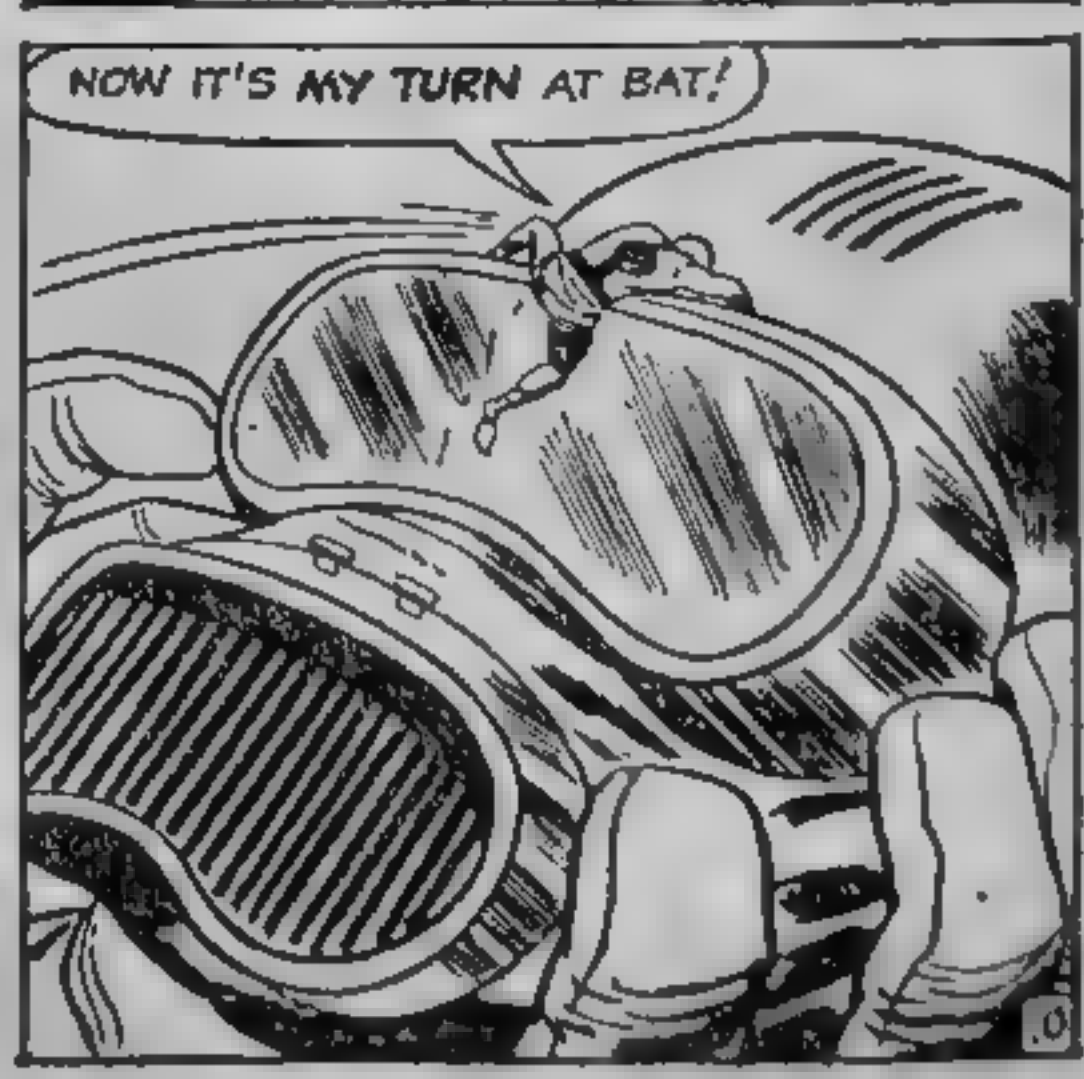
THERE! I'VE RIPPED OUT THE WIRES! ANOTHER FEW SECONDS AND MY EARDRUMS WOULD'VE BURST!
EDITOR'S NOTE: EVEN THOUGH THE ANT-MAN IS SMALL AS AN INSECT, HE STILL RETAINS ALL THE STRENGTH OF HIS NORMAL SIZE! OTHERWISE, HE COULDN'T HAVE YANKED OUT THE WIRES!

THE ANT-MAN STOPPED THE HORN! B-BUT WHERE IS HE NOW? I CAN'T FIND HIM!

AH, THERE YOU ARE! YOU'RE VERY AGILE BUT YOU'VE COME TO THE END OF THE LINE!
THE ANTS SHOULD HAVE REACHED THE KNOB BY NOW!

AND, JUST AS THE TINY HUMAN HAS PREDICTED, A SWARM OF FAITHFUL INSECTS TURNS THE WINDSHIELD WIPER CONTROL AS THE ANT-MAN HAD INSTRUCTED THEM...

WELL DONE, FELLAS! THAT'LL GIVE ME JUST THE IMPETUS I NEED!
WHA--?!!
WHISK!


NOW IT'S MY TURN AT BAT!

THIS GAS MASK WAS NEVER AS GOOD AS THE ONE I'M WEARING-- THE ONE I INVENTED FOR THE ARMY! BUT NOW I'LL MAKE IT COMPLETELY WORTHLESS!

WITH GAPING HOLES TORN IN HIS MASK, THE HIJACKER SOON BECOMES HELPLESS!
THE GAS IS MAKING ME DIZZY-- I-I'M GOING TO PASS OUT!
QUICKLY, MY LITTLE FRIENDS-- GATHER BELOW ME!

UHHHH...
AHHH! LIKE LANDING ON A CLOUD!

AS THE HIJACKER SLUMPS TO THE GROUND, HIS MASK FALLS FROM HIS FACE, TO REVEAL...
JUST AS I SUSPECTED! IT'S MITCHELL, OWNER OF THE ARMORED TRUCK COMPANY!
NOW TO CONTACT THE POLICE, BEFORE HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS!

MINUTES LATER...
I FIRST SUSPECTED MITCHELL WHEN I SAW THE PRIMITIVE STATUES IN HIS OFFICE AND I LEARNED HE'D SPENT TIME IN THE JUNGLES OF PERU!
FOR I KNEW THAT THE INDIANS THERE HAVE AN ANCIENT VAPOR, THE INHALING OF WHICH CAUSES A LAPSE OF MEMORY!

SO YOU FIGURED THAT WAS TIED IN WITH THE HIJACKER! AND THAT'S WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO WEAR A GAS MASK!
RIGHT! THEN, THE FACT THAT ONLY MITCHELL KNEW ALL THE ROUTES OF HIS TRUCKS, ADDED TO MY SUSPICION OF HIM!
BUT WHY'D MITCHELL DO IT?

MY COMPANY WAS LOSING MONEY! I THOUGHT I COULD GET IT BACK BY STEALING IT, AND NO ONE WOULD EVER KNOW!
THEN, I THOUGHT IF I MYSELF SENT FOR THE ANT-MAN, HE'D NEVER SUSPECT ME!
AND WE THOUGHT THE ANT-MAN HAD FAILED US BY GETTING SICK!

MISTER, EVEN WHEN THAT GUY FAILS, HE WINS! THAT'S THE ANT-MAN FOR YOU!
THE END

HE WAS SURE OF WHAT HE SAW, EVEN THOUGH HIS PARENTS AND EVERYONE ELSE LAUGHED AT HIS STARTLING ACCOUNT OF THE SECRET UNDER THE ROCK!

THE FOOTPRINTS

RUSHING THROUGH HIS DINNER, FREDDY DASHES BACK TO THE ROCK AND LIFTS IT UP EXPECTANTLY...

IN VAIN, FREDDY WAITS TILL DARK FOR THE ELF TO RETURN! THEN HE GOES HOME! BUT HE ONLY TOSSES AND TURNS IN BED...

AND AS HE RAISES THE ROCK THIS TIME, HE GAPES INCREDULOUSLY...

IF I TRY TO TALK TO THEM, THEY MAY ALL RUN AWAY! I'LL JUST WATCH FOR A WHILE, AND THEN TALK!

SUDDENLY, BEFORE HIS STARTLED EYES, HE SEES AN ORDINARY TWIG LIFTED ALOFT BY THE TINY PEOPLE AND BURST INTO FLAME...
I'LL BET THEY JUST WISHED IT TO BE A TORCH! ELVES CAN WISH ANYTHING AND IT'LL COME TRUE!

THEN HE WATCHES, AS AN ELF WAVES A FINGER AT A CURLED-UP LEAF THAT BEGINS TO CHANGE ITS FORM...
HE MADE A BENCH OUT OF IT! GEE, WHAT'LL I ASK THEM TO DO FOR ME?

FREDDY, IS THAT YOU OUT THERE?

CAREFULLY, HE REPLACES THE ROCK WITHOUT ANY OF THE ELVES SEEING HIM, AND THEN HE STARTS HOME...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT OF BED AT THIS HOUR?
LOOKING AT ELVES!

WHAT KIND OF NONSENSE IS THIS FROM A GROWN BOY? FREDDY, EVERYONE KNOWS ELVES ARE JUST IMAGINARY CREATURES... THEY DON'T REALLY EXIST!
BUT I SAW THEM UNDER THE ROCK!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS SILLY ELF BUSINESS! PROMISE YOU WON'T GO "ELF HUNTING" AGAIN!
ALL RIGHT, MOM... BUT THEY DO EXIST...

BUT THE NEXT MORNING, THE TEMPTATION IS TOO STRONG...
I KNOW I PROMISED... BUT THIS WILL BE THE *LAST* TIME! IF THEY CAN CHANGE THESE ROCKS INTO *GOLD*, THE FOLKS'LL HAVE TO BELIEVE IN THEM! IF THEY *CAN'T*, I'LL KNOW THERE ARE NO ELVES!

FREDDY, WHAT DID YOU PROMISE?
SORRY, MOM!

FREDDY, NO ONE BELIEVES IN ELVES! YOU'D ONLY BE LAUGHED AT IF YOU WENT AROUND SAYING YOU WERE LOOKING FOR THEM!

BUT AS FREDDY AND HIS MOTHER START OFF, BEHIND THEM THERE IS A STARTLING MOVEMENT UNDERNEATH THE ROCK...
LOOK! THERE'S ONE OF THE *GIANT'S* BASKETS!
BET HE WANTS THOSE STONES TURNED INTO *GOLD!*

GIANT HUNTING AGAIN! HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU GIANTS *DON'T* EXIST? NO ONE GOES AROUND LOOKING FOR GIANTS!
THEN HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO USE OUR MAGICAL POWERS?

TO AMUSE YOURSELVES!
WELL, I GUESS NO GIANT LEFT THOSE STONES THERE; BUT I KNOW HOW I'M GOING TO CHANGE THEM!

THE LITTLE ELF WAVES HIS HAND, MUTTERS SOME STRANGE WORDS AND SUDDENLY, THE PLAIN ROCKS GLOW...
IF THERE WERE ANY PROOF OF ELVES OR THEIR MAGIC...
OKAY, MOM! I *WON'T* BELIEVE IN ELVES ANY MORE!
THE END

MYSTERIOUS TRIAL

AT THE TRIAL, THINGS LOOKED DARKER AND DARKER FOR HAL VERRAL --

EVERYBODY KNOWS THE DEFENDANT'S UNGOVERNABLE TEMPER! HE WAS DESPERATE WHEN HIS UNCLE REFUSED HIM HELP -- AND HE SWORE REVENGE --

OH, HE'S GUILTY, GUILTY -- THERE ISN'T ANY DOUBT ABOUT IT!

HELENE WAS IN A BAD STATE OF MIND -- SHE WAS UNDER MY CONSTANT CARE! AND NOW HER CASE TOOK A STRANGE TURN --

I HAD A DREAM LAST NIGHT -- A DREAM SO VIVID AND AMAZING THAT IT FRIGHTENED ME! HELP ME, DR. ORMSBY -- I CAN'T SEEM TO SHAKE IT OFF --

TELL ME ABOUT IT -- EVERY DETAIL!

"MY SLEEP WAS RESTLESS -- I TOSSED AND TURNED! AND THEN I DREAMED THAT I WAS AWAKENED -- BY UNCLE MARTIN! I WAS AMAZED --"

NO -- NO! IT CAN'T BE -- YOU'RE DEAD --

NOW, NOW -- STOP MAKING SUCH A FUSS, HONEY! YOU'VE GOT TO COME WITH ME -- PLEASE!

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED THEN -- ALL I CAN REMEMBER IS THAT I WAS WEARING MY RED DRESS, AND WE SEEMED TO BE SPARING UPWARD ON A CLOUD --"

WHERE -- WHERE ARE WE GOING?

TO THE PRELIMINARY HEARING!

"SUDDENLY -- MAGICALLY -- WE WERE THERE! THAT HOLLOW SOUND -- IT WAS THE BANGING OF A GAVEL --"

HEAR YE, HEAR YE! THE COURT OF THE UNKNOWN IS NOW IN SESSION! THIS IS A PRELIMINARY HEARING, DEALING WITH THE APPLICATION OF ONE MARTIN VERRAL FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE BEYOND! ALL CONCERNED DRAW NEAR -- HEARING WILL NOW COMMENCE!

THUD! THUD!

I OFFER IN EVIDENCE AGAINST THE PETITIONER PROOF THAT DURING HIS STAY ON EARTH, HE WAS QUICK-TEMPERED -- SOMETIMES STINGY --

IF IT PLEASE YOUR HONOR, I WISH TO INTRODUCE JUST ONE WITNESS IN MY BEHALF -- MY NIECE HELENE!

HELENE VERRAL, YOU MAY TAKE THE STAND!

I -- I'VE KNOWN MY UNCLE MARTIN ALL MY LIFE! HE'S GOOD AND HE'S KIND -- AND HE BROUGHT US UP UNSELFISHLY, MY BROTHER AND MYSELF -- I SWEAR IT!

THIS PRELIMINARY HEARING IS DECIDED IN FAVOR OF THE PETITIONER, *MARTIN VERRAL!* ENTRANCE INTO THE BEYOND IS GRANTED! AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THIS COURT'S DECISION BE GIVEN HIS NIECE, HELENE VERRAL, FOR PURPOSES OF RECORD!

YES, YOUR HONOR!

"I SEEM TO RECALL SLIPPING THE TRANSCRIPT INTO THE POCKET OF MY RED DRESS AS UNCLE MARTIN TURNED TO ME TO TAKE HIS LEAVE --"

I'VE GOT TO MAKE MY JOURNEY NOW, HELENE! JUST REMEMBER THAT YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE MY LOVE, YOU AND HAL --

HAL! AFTER WHAT HE DID TO YOU?

"HE DIDN'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT! AND WHEN I TOLD HIM ABOUT HOW HAL WAS EVEN NOW ON TRIAL FOR HIS DEATH --"

BUT THAT'S JUST NOT *SO!* I REMEMBER JUST EXACTLY HOW IT ALL HAPPENED! I'D STAMPED OUT OF THE HOUSE IN ANGER, FOLLOWING OUR QUARREL, AND I MEANT TO WALK IT OFF! I'D JUST STEPPED OFF THE CURB WHEN --

BAM

ALL I CAN RECOLLECT IS STAGGERING BACK INTO THE GARDEN -- AND THEN EVERYTHING WENT BLACK!

IS THIS -- *TRUE?*

OH, MOST CERTAINLY -- IT'S ALL HERE IN THE RECORDS! WE EVEN HAVE THE CAR'S LICENSE NUMBER! HERE IT IS -- ZJ-5-RW!

-- AND THAT'S THE STORY! OH, I KNOW IT WAS A *DREAM* -- BUT IT WAS SO-SO *VIVID!* IT KEEPS DISTURBING ME AND I -- I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!

THERE, THERE! IF IT WILL EASE YOUR MIND, I HAVE INFLUENTIAL ACQUAINTANCES AMONG THE POLICE! I'LL HAVE THEM INVESTIGATE, AND WE'LL PROBABLY FIND OUT THAT THERE ISN'T EVEN ANY SUCH LICENSE!

HELENE QUIETED DOWN THEN, AND I FELT THAT SHE'D REGAINED CONTROL OVER HERSELF! BUT TWO DAYS LATER SHE BURST INTO THE OFFICE WILDLY, THRUSTING A NEWSPAPER EXTRA INTO MY HANDS! I COULD HARDLY BELIEVE WHAT I READ --

EXTRA New York CLARION EXTRA

HAL VERRAL FREED IN DEATH OF UNCLE

POLICE ACT ON TIP -- SECURE CONFESSION FROM HIT-AND-RUN DRIVER

WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL-- YOUR BROTHER'S *CLEARED!* BUT YOU'D BETTER LIE DOWN -- YOU'RE ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE!

I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND -- MY HEAD'S IN A WHIRL! IT *WASN'T* A DREAM, THEN-- IT ACTUALLY *HAPPENED*, DIDN'T IT? I SEE IT ALL AGAIN -- I'M EVEN WEARING THE SAME DRESS--

NOW, YOU'VE GOT TO *RELAX* -- TAKE IT *EASY!* JUST REMEMBER THAT YOU CAME TO ME FOR ***SLEEP-WALKING*** IN THE FIRST PLACE, RIGHT? WELL, YOU WERE DISTURBED ON THE NIGHT THAT YOUR UNCLE AND BROTHER FOUGHT SO BITTERLY! AND SO YOU ***WALKED IN YOUR SLEEP!*** YOU WENT TO THE WINDOW -- ***AND LOOKED OUT IN TIME TO SEE YOUR UNCLE HIT BY THAT CAR!***

SINCE YOUR EYES ARE EXCELLENT, YOU SPOTTED THE CAR'S LICENSE NUMBER AND RETAINED IT IN YOUR MIND, WHERE IT BECAME MINGLED WITH THE STRANGE DREAM THAT YOU ***ACTUALLY HAD!*** THAT'S ALL IT WAS -- SIMPLE, WASN'T IT?

YOU MAKE ME ASHAMED OF MYSELF FOR BEING SUCH AN EMOTIONAL IDIOT, DR. ORMSBY! YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE -- I CAN SEE IT ALL NOW, THANK HEAVENS!

WHEN HELENE LEFT --

WELL! SHE'S WHAT I CALL A *TOUCH-AND-GO* CASE -- BUT YOU HANDLED HER BEAUTIFULLY, DOCTOR!

YES, I THINK I ***DID!*** IF I HADN'T CONVINCED HER THAT IT HAD BEEN A ***DREAM*** SHE'D HAD, SHE MIGHT HAVE CRACKED UP COMPLETELY--THINKING THAT SHE'D ***REALLY*** HAD SOME CONTACT WITH THE ***UNKNOWN!***

THE ***UNKNOWN*** ... SILLY, ISN'T IT?

I WONDER! SHE SAID THAT SHE'D BEEN WEARING THAT SAME RED DRESS DURING HER DREAM ADVENTURE -- AND THIS MUST HAVE SLIPPED OUT OF HER POCKET WHILE SHE WAS LYING ON THE COUCH! ***LOOK!***

COURT OF THE UNKNOWN

PRELIMINARY HEARING IN PETITION OF MARTIN VERRAL FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE BEYOND

PETITION GRANTED

BUT EVEN AS THEY GAZED AT THE STRANGE DOCUMENT IN STUPEFIED AMAZEMENT --

THE WORDS-- THEY'RE BLURRING!

THEY'RE ***DISAPPEARING!***

BUT HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN IT, DR. ORMSBY?

I DON'T, NURSE -- I ***CAN'T!*** I CAN ONLY REPEAT WHAT A WISE MAN ONCE SAID -- *"THERE ARE STRANGER THINGS IN THIS WORLD AND BEYOND IT THAN THE MIND OF MORTAL MAN CAN EVER CONCEIVE!"*

The End

THE GREEN HAT

GEORGE is a guy who knows more about flying saucers and Mars men than all the fellows who hang out at Pop's candy store. That's because, take it from George, he's seen what most people don't believe, and he knows better than anyone else, he says. George was a little put out when his buddy, Chuck, came along with a few tall tales of his own. That was cutting in on his territory, but George was several stories ahead so he didn't worry.

He got a kick out of telling whoppers. It didn't hurt anybody, he figured. None of it was true, but it exercised his imagination, he told Pop one night.

"You get a good sleep and exercise yourself into the employment agency tomorrow morning for a steady job," Pop advised.

"Have a heart, pop. The ink on my diploma's hardly dry."

"Blot it," said pop. "Your credit just ran out."

George left the store. He promised himself an extra week's vacation before settling down to work. He walked along whistling softly and turned at the corner. He hadn't figured on the little guy who was bending over, hands and knees on the sidewalk. George tripped and sprawled to the ground.

"Say, mister, isn't it kind of late for you to be crawling around without a leash? Why didn't you bark out and warn me?"

"Sorry," muttered the funny fellow, not even getting up.

"Well, as long as I'm down here, too," said George, bracing himself on his elbow as if it was most natural to stretch out on the sidewalk late at night, "can I help you look for whatever you've lost?"

"You won't be able to see it," the man replied. "A sudden breeze came along as I neared the corner, and before I knew it . . . off it went. I started to run and I fell. Now I'm missing my eyeglasses, too."

"Have you ever thought of advertising?" George joked.

"Mercy, no!" came the quick reply. "What good is that, when only my friends can help, and I know where they can be reached."

George got to his feet wondering if the poor guy had hit his head when he fell. As he stood up he saw a bright green object flickering like a firefly from the roadway. He ran toward it, and it turned out to be a man's hat twinkling like a neon sign. He picked it up and brought it back to his sidewalk acquaintance.

"Can't say I admire your taste, but if this is yours . . ."

"I am amazed!"

"Feeling's mutual," George replied, staring with fascination as the man put the green glow upon his head. "How much are they getting for a fancy lid like that? Only blue's more my color . . ."

"You are one of us! I've never seen you at the meetings. It is amazing that an ordinary common boy . . . a homo sapiens . . ."

"Easy on the insults, mister."

"You have the gift of the Green Goddess, my lad. I will teach you to use it wisely and guard it well. My other friends are far away on important missions to bring good fortune and prosperity wherever they go. I have a job for you to do of the highest importance."

"Oh, your friends can't be *that* far away," George protested.

"A few million miles," the little man said casually. "That makes it slightly difficult to get one here in a hurry."

"You've got a point," George agreed.

"And now that you've come to my rescue, you will help me track down my missing eyeglasses. Without them I cannot do any paper work. The success of my goodwill mission depends upon my sight, and without the glasses I will be lost. For the greater good of humanity, you must help me find them. You can see the Goddess of the Green Light, invisible to other earth men. Do not fail me."

"Look, buddy, I'd like to help out, but I've got to get up real early tomorrow. I was counting on going to the employment agency for a job and . . ."

"I will meet you there."

"That's awfully sociable of you, but . . ."

"We will coordinate our search throughout the city. Good night, Green Friend."

"You can call me George."

"Axtel is my name," and with a polite flicker of his luminous green hat, the strange man hurried away.

George left the house early and headed for the sand lot to see if any of the younger kids were playing stickball. He had no intention of going to the job agency and meeting Axtel.

The kids had just begun to organize what promised to be a sensational game. And along came the little man, a determined look on his face under the green fedora, still on his head. He pounced upon George as if they were buddies.

"So there you are, my good fellow! You didn't show up at the agency, so I wasted no time in getting here."

"Obviously," said George

wondering to himself about the special gift that could lead Axtel to him without anyone else's information. Too bad he couldn't track down things as well as people.

"Have you checked the lot?" Axtel asked.

"What? Oh, you mean for the glasses."

Axtel looked pleased.

"As a matter of fact I was just waiting for you," George explained.

"Excellent! Maybe these young friends will stand aside while we do our work."

"Sure thing. Hey, kids, will you clear the field for a few minutes?" And then to Axtel, "Why don't you take your hat off on a hot day like this?"

One of the youngsters was standing by, and he began to laugh heartily. "Cet him! Always making jokes, George is. And the guy sure enough reached for his head as if he had a hat. George was only ribbing him."

"Don't you understand," Axtel whispered to George knowingly. "No one can see the hat but those with the gift of the Green Goddess. Next time be more careful what you say about it."

George and Axtel covered the field unsuccessfully. The young boys stared after them suspiciously. Sadly, George realized that he couldn't go back to play with them. He felt too self-conscious. Any explanations he might try to give them would be hooted at.

"Let's get out of here," he said to Axtel. He walked away glumly feeling that his day was already ruined. "Look, mister, I'd like to get in a few frames of bowling. Why don't you take off on your own now."

"I'll go with you," Axtel volunteered cheerfully. "Think of all the places we can cover if we search for my glasses this way. It's really simpler to have you with free time on your hands, than on a steady job."

"That does it!" George shook his head hopelessly. He headed for the employment agency with the little man right at his heels.

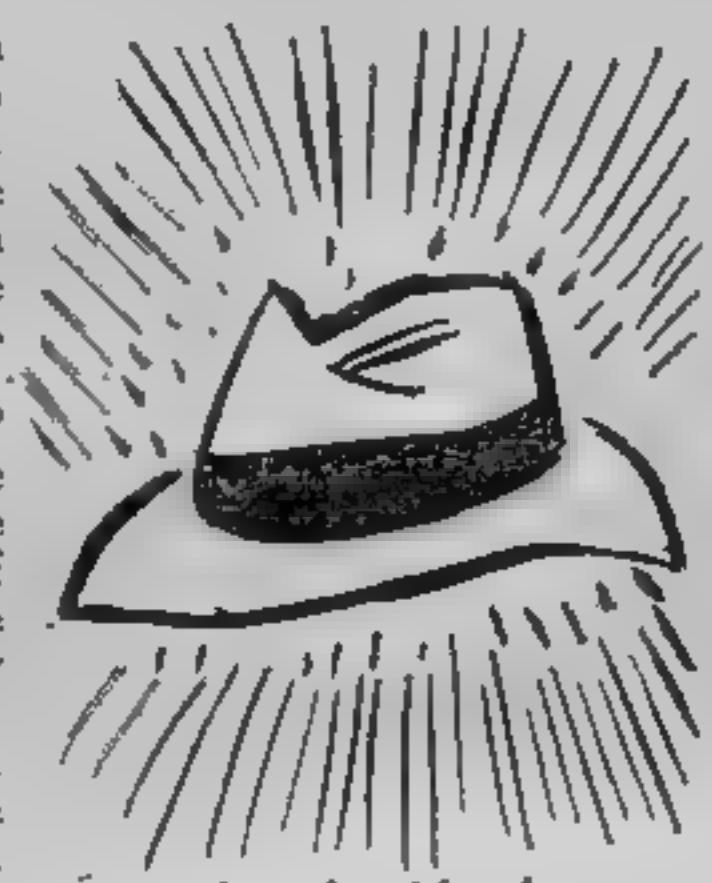
"You're not very anxious to oblige me," scolded Axtel.

"You've got me wrong," said George. "It's just that I'm finished loafing around. If I find those glasses I'll let you know right away. Just tell me where I can reach you."

"At noon each day I stop by a cafeteria on Main street. Meet me in front of it today, and do not fail me. If you do, I'll show up just like I did this morning. I might even decide to get a job the same place you're working just to keep my eye on you."

"That won't be necessary," George hastily assured him. I'll meet you there later."

As it turned out, George was



quite pleased with the new swing of events. At the agency he came through his interview very well. They offered him a job in training with a radio parts company. He was quite happy about it and looked forward to his first day at work. It was an exciting change in his life and one that he should have made a long time ago, he now realized.

He had only one real problem though, and that was the persistent little man. If he could only find another guy for Axtel to shadow. And that's when he thought of Chuck. He might even trick Chuck into kidding Axtel along about seeing the green hat. But how could he remove himself from the picture . . . unless. He had it! He would tell Axtel that he was no longer able to see the hat. He would do it cleverly to avoid Axtel's suspicions. What a great idea! He would be useless to Axtel without the Green Goddess' gift of sight.

He whistled happily as he headed for the cafeteria. He was early, so he decided to have his lunch before keeping his appointment with Axtel.

As he took his check on the way in, his eyes greeted the young lady cashier.

"Good afternoon!" She smiled, and George thought that this was the most beautiful girl he had ever met in his life.

Every so often as he sat and sipped his milk, his eyes would catch hers. On his way out he couldn't resist sharing his good news with her.

"I'm starting on a new job this afternoon at the Central Radio factory," he announced proudly.

"Isn't that wonderful!" she exclaimed. "That's not far from here."

"I have the address written down," said George, "but I've never been there."

"I'll point it out to you, if you'd like. I'm off duty now, and I just have to meet my father. I always take him his lunch from the cafeteria."

"That's wonderful!" George said admiringly.

What a terrific day, he thought. And to top it all was his scheme to fool Axtel and the Green Goddess once and for all!

The pretty cashier took her handbag. She turned to the mirror and patted her hair. A sudden green glow covered her head. George blinked in amazement. She was wearing a woman's bonnet that gave off the same fabulous light as Axtel's hat!

She sailed out the door, just as Axtel appeared.

"Father!" she greeted him fondly.

George had a sudden change of heart. After all, how could he trick the poor guy that way. The least he could do was help look for those glasses!

THE END G-537

HERE IT IS--- A BLAZING YARN OF THE OLD WEST THAT WILL CHASE CHILLS UP AND DOWN YOUR SPINE! AND THIS ONE'S **DIFFERENT**, BECAUSE IT STARS THE MIGHTY---

NEMESIS in "COME OUT SHOOTING!"

GENERAL STORE

STORY:- SHANE O'SHEA

ART:- CHIC STONE

LET'S START OFF WITH **LITA**--- A GIRL IN LOVE WITH A **GHOST**---

I'M SICK OF IT---I HARDLY EVER GET TO SEE HIM! I'M NOT GOING TO BE A FOOL ANY LONGER---I'M GOING TO MARRY THE FIRST **HUMAN MAN** WHO ASKS ME!

AND BEING A YOUNG LADY OF DETERMINATION, SHE MANAGED TO GET A PROPOSAL---

I'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT QUESTION TO ASK YOU, LITA DARLING---

AT LAST! I'LL JUST WAIT FOR HIM TO FINISH --AND THEN I'LL SAY **YES** SO FAST HE WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT HIM!

WELL···TALK ABOUT THINGS HITTING HIM···SUDDENLY···
OH-HHH!
SPLUSH!

WHACK!
GULP!

OKAY, NEMESIS···I KNOW YOU'RE HERE! NO USE TRYING TO HIDE UNDER THAT CLOAK OF INVISIBILITY OF YOURS···SO SHOW!

N-NOW DON'T GET MAD, HONEY··· PLEASE···

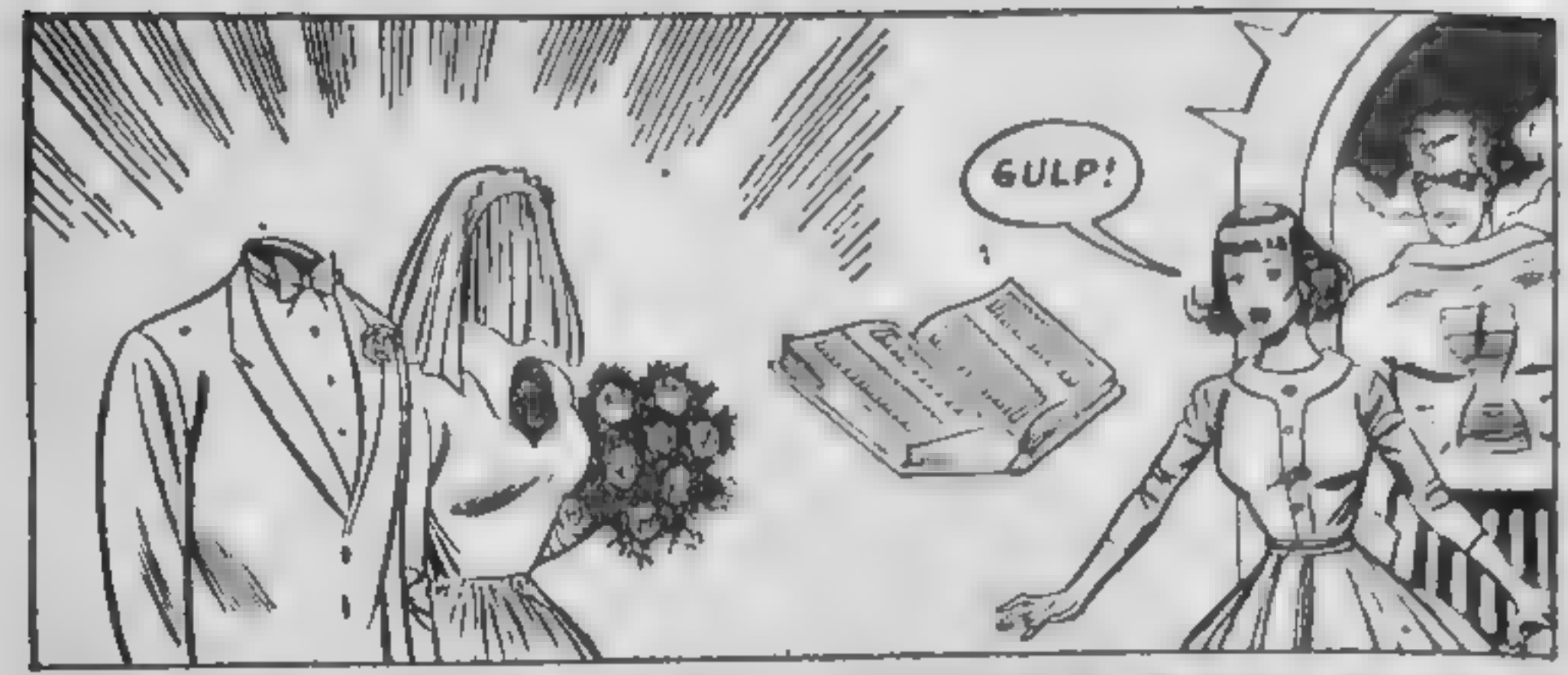
YOU···YOU DARE TELL ME NOT TO GET MAD···?

YOU COME WHEN YOU WANT, GO WHEN YOU WANT, PRACTICALLY NEVER GET TO SEE ME···AND WHEN I TRY TO GET ME A HUSBAND OUT OF SELF-DEFENSE, YOU RUIN MY CHANCES! I'M SICK OF IT ···I'M NOT GOING TO STAND IT ANY LONGER···
YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU! BUT LET'S FACE IT···I'M A GHOST, AND MY TIME'S NOT MY OWN!

THAT'S JUST THE TROUBLE. OH, HOW I WISH THAT I WERE A GHOST, TOO··· SO WE COULD BE M-MARRIED···
DON'T WISH THAT SO SOON, HONEY. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT A SUPERNATURAL WEDDING IS LIKE?

OKAY··I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU ONE!
?!?

HIGH ABOVE EARTH··· IN THE UNKNOWN···
NEMESIS ···I'M S-SCARED!
YOU THINK THIS IS SOMETHING? THERE'S A WEDDING SCHEDULED FOR ABOUT NOW···JUST WAIT TILL YOU SEE WHAT GOES ON!
PHWEET!
WOO-WOO!


GULP!

YOU SEE? THAT'S WHAT A WEDDING'S LIKE IN THE UNKNOWN! COME ON - I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND SOME MORE...
SMACK!

WHATEVER IS THAT? IT LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF TELESCOPE, BUT WHAT'S IT FOR?
JUST OUR WAY OF KEEPING CHECK ON THINGS HAPPENING DOWN ON EARTH. WE DON'T MISS A THING! LIKE TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

THAT LOOKS LIKE THE MOUNTAINS OF THE FAR WEST ...AND JUST AS CLEAR!
SURE IS. AND LOOK... THERE COMES THE TRANS-WESTERN LIMITED. LOOK AT HER BARRELING ALONG - EVER SEE ANYTHING SO NEW AND MODERN?

WHAT THE...! IT'S AN ARMED COWBOY! B-BUT THEY HAVEN'T STAGED HOLDUPS LIKE THAT SINCE THE NINETEENTH CENTURY!

WE MUST BE DREAMING...BUT I'M STOPPING THE TRAIN!

IT...IT'S A MOVIE, ISN'T IT, NEMESIS? AFTER ALL, TRAIN-ROBBERS WENT OUT OF STYLE A CENTURY AGO!

SUDDENLY...
POUF!
IT'S NO MOVIE, LITA! ONLY A SPIRIT COULD DISAPPEAR LIKE THAT. IT MUST BE A GHOST OUT OF THE PAST!
WHEN YOU WANT TO FIND OUT ABOUT THINGS SUPERNATURAL IN THE UNKNOWN, YOU CONSULT THE ARCHIVES...
HERE IT IS...THE VERY THING YOU'RE LOOKING FOR. IT'S COMPLETE IN OUR WESTERN U.S. RECORDS. SPIRIT'S NAME... TEX RANSOME. RESIDENCE... GILA PASS, WYOMING. YEAR OF DEATH ...1866!

"LET'S SEE.. ADJUDGED GUILTY OF BANK ROBBERY AND HOMICIDE... ESCAPED JAIL JUST BEFORE EXECUTION..."

"A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE, HE MADE NO ATTEMPT TO FLEE THE COUNTRY. INSTEAD, HE TURNED HIGHWAYMAN, AND THEY'D NEVER HAVE CAUGHT UP WITH HIM IF HE HADN'T CHANCED TO SEE HIS SWEETHEART, AMY STEVENS, IN THE ARMS OF HUTCH CARVER, THE LOCAL SALOON OWNER..."

"BENT ON REVENGE, HE RODE INTO TOWN...AND MET HIS DEATH IN A GRIM DUEL WITH CARVER!"
SALO

WHEN HIS SPIRIT REACHED THE UNKNOWN, HE REFUSED TO UNDERGO TRIAL, AS IS THE CUSTOM UP HERE..."
I KNOW WHAT HAPPENS AT TRIALS. I'M NOT GOIN' THROUGH ANOTHER ONE!
TAKE THE PRISONER TO THE DUNGEONS UNTIL HE THINKS BETTER OF HIS DECISION!

"BUT THEN HE ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING THAT HAD PRACTICALLY NEVER HAPPENED DURING ALL OUR HISTORY..."
HE'S GONE. ESCAPED FROM THE UNKNOWN!

THAT TRAIN HOLDUP YOU SAW THROUGH THE TELESCOPE—IT WAS A NATURAL THING TO HAPPEN. THIS IS THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH···WHAT MORE NATURAL TIME FOR A SPIRIT TO HAUNT THE SCENE OF HIS FORMER CRIMES? BUT IT'S GIVING US A BAD NAME ON EARTH ··
OKAY, OKAY. I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE DRIVING AT, GRIM REAPER.

I GET THE DIRTY WORK AGAIN RIGHT? I'M ASSIGNED TO CAPTURE THIS ESCAPED SPIRIT! 100 YEARS HE WANDERS AROUND LOOSE ON EARTH ···AND NOW I GET THE JOB OF ROUNDING HIM UP!

FIRST I'VE GOT TO TAKE YOU HOME
I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU, NEMESIS YOU'RE NOT TAKING ME HOME SINCE I BASIN ON THIS FROM THE BEGINNING YOU'RE TAKING ME ALONG WITH YOU!

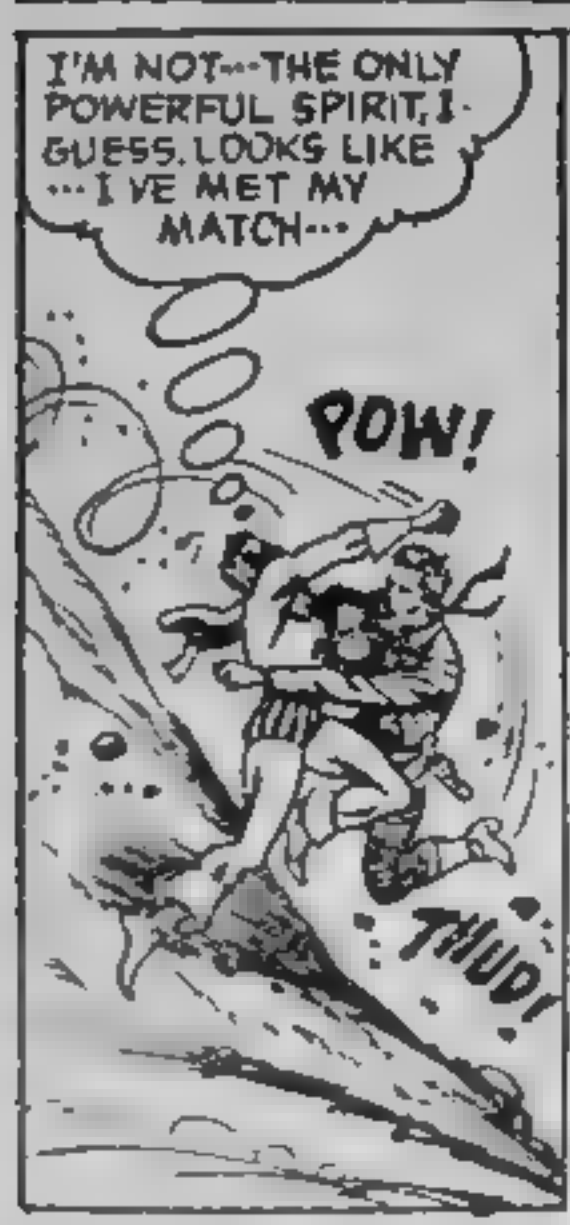
WHEN LITA GOT STUBBORN, THERE WAS LITTLE THAT COULD BE DONE. AT THE SCENE OF THE TRAIN HOLDUP THEY HAD WITNESSED···
THIS IS THE AREA THAT TEX RANSOME'S GHOST IS HAUNTING—NEAR GILA PASS, WYOMING, WHERE HE HAD LIVED.
LOOK!

WE'RE IN LUCK. HE'S AT IT AGAIN!

I'LL USE MY SUPERNATURAL POWERS ON HIM! THERE HE GOES···
I'M A SOBER MAN ···BUT I COULDA SWORN I SAW AN ARMED RIDER ON A HORSE! THEN POOF···HE'S GONE!

YOU'RE···NO LIVIN' MAN, OR YOU COULDN'T HAVE DONE WHAT YOU DID TO ME. YOU'VE COME FROM THE UNKNOWN, HAVEN'T YOU ···TO BRING ME BACK THERE!
THAT'S RIGHT, TEX. AND SINCE I'M A VERY POWERFUL SPIRIT, THERE ISN'T A THING YOU CAN DO AGAINST ME.

SO COME ALONG AND ...UGH!
NEVER!


I'M NOT...THE ONLY POWERFUL SPIRIT, I GUESS. LOOKS LIKE ...I'VE MET MY MATCH...
POW!
THUD!

GET YOU... YET...
LOOK OUT!

WHAM!

SPIRITS CAN DESTROY EACH OTHER ...AND THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO TRY TO DO TO ME, RIGHT?
NO.. YOU'RE JUST DOIN' YOUR JOB BUT NOBODY CAPTURES ME!

THERE HE GOES.. HE'S DISAPPEARED!
POUF!

BIG DEAL. BIG WHEEL! I'M SAYING YOU GOT LICKED, MISTER!
YOU'RE NEVER LICKED UNTIL THE LAST BLOW'S STRUCK...EVEN THOUGH I'LL ADMIT HE CAN SURE HIT A HARD ONE! BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LET HIM GET AWAY WITH IT...I'M GOING AFTER HIM EVEN IF I HAVE TO GO BACK INTO HIS OWN TIME!

ONLY A SPIRIT AS MIGHTY AS NEMESIS COULD MAKE THIS STRANGE FLIGHT! AND THIS TIME, HE HAD A PASSENGER WITH HIM···
A MAN WITH INSTINCTS LIKE TEX RANSOME JUST COULDN'T BE ALL BAD···I WONDER IF WE KNOW THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT HIM? WELL···WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT!

LOOK···MY CLOTHING ···IT'S CHANGED! IT'S LIKE GIRLS WORE IN THE 1860'S···
OF COURSE··· WE CAN'T AFFORD TO ATTRACT TOO MUCH ATTENT ON ···YOU KNOW THAT'S WHY I'LL BECOME STEVE FLINT AGAIN THE MAN I WAS WHEN I WAS ALIVE, 19TH CENTURY VERSION!

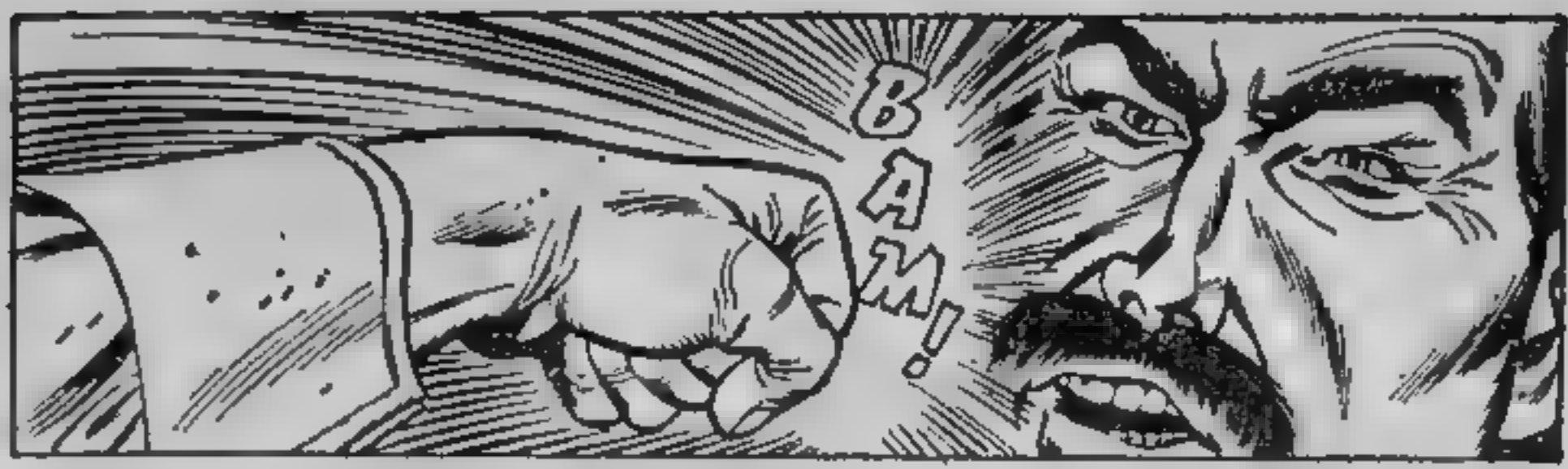
THE TIME WAS 1866···AND THEY WERE IN G'LA PASS···
THERE COMES TEX ···AND HE SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A CRIMINAL! MUST BE BEFORE HE TURNED TO CRIME, I GUESS···
AND THAT'S AMY STEVENS, THE GIRL HE WAS IN LOVE WITH. SHE'S BEAUTI-FUL···

BUT TEX WASN'T THE ONLY MAN IN LOVE WITH AMY··· THERE WAS HUTCH CARVER, OWNER OF THE LOCAL SALOON···
I'LL TEACH THAT YOKEL A LESSON··· SHOW HIM HE CAN'T MESS AROUND WITH THE GAL I'VE CHOSEN!

HE LOST NO TIME IN CORNERING TEX ON HIS LITTLE ONE-MAN SPREAD···
LISTEN, BUSTER··· AN' LISTEN CLOSE. YOU LEAVE THAT STEVENS DAME ALONE, OR···
OR WHAT, MISTER?

OR THIS!

IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN YOU, FELLA!
GULP!


BAM!

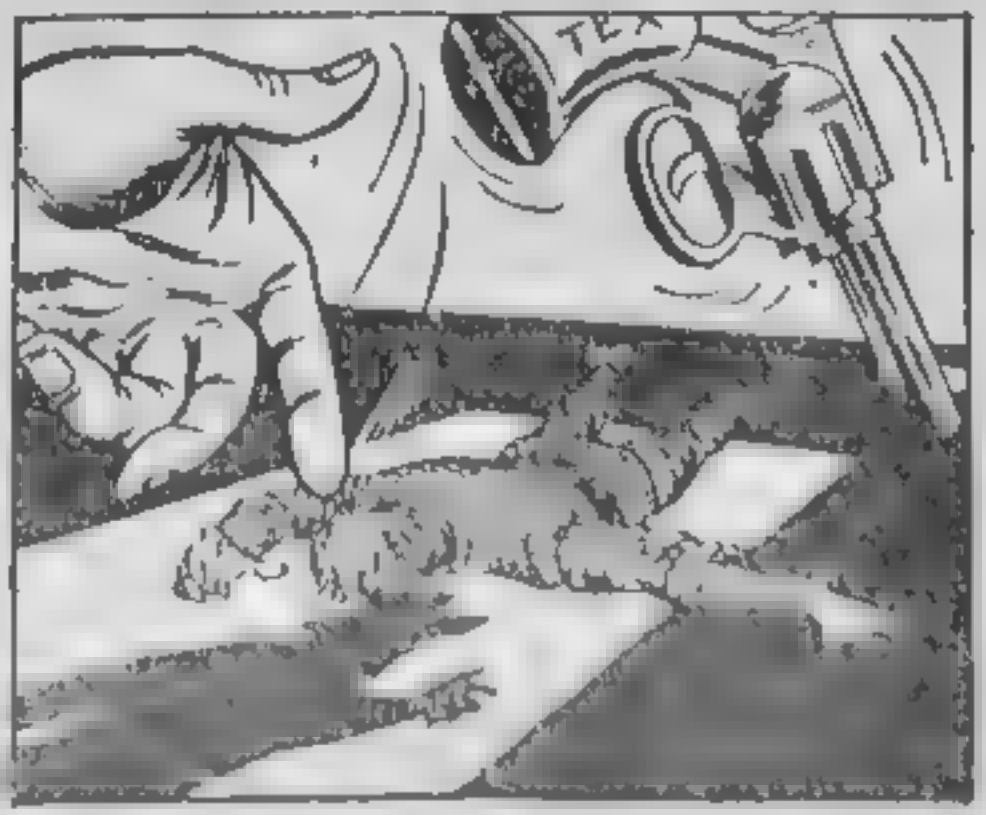
I DON'T LIKE FOLKS WHO THREATEN ME, CARVER. I'M GONNA KEEP ON SEEIN' AMY, BUT YOU'D BETTER KEEP AWAY FROM HER···OR I'LL MAKE YOU WISH YOU HAD!
I - I'LL KEEP AWAY I P-PROMISE--
I'VE BEEN WATCH NG TEX SINCE I GOT HERE··· AND THIS IS THE FIRST INTERESTING THING I'VE SEEN YET.

AS HUTCH CARVER LEFT, STEVE SAW SOMETHING ELSE INTERESTING···
HE'S NOT WATCHIN' ME··· ···AND I CAN USE HIS GUN. IT'S GOT HIS NAME ON THE BUTT···
TEX

YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU SAW HIM STEAL TEX'S GUN··· AND YOU DID NOTHING ABOUT IT?
THAT'S RIGHT. I WANT TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED HERE. I DON'T KNOW A BLESSED THING ABOUT WHAT GOT TEX IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW IN THE FIRST PLACE AND I WANT TO FIND OUT FOR MY-SELF.

BANK of LA PASS
BAM! BAM! BAM!
GUNSHOTS FROM THE BANK···MUST BE A HOLDUP!

I'LL TEACH YOU TO TRY TO STOP ME!
OH-HHHH!
BAM!

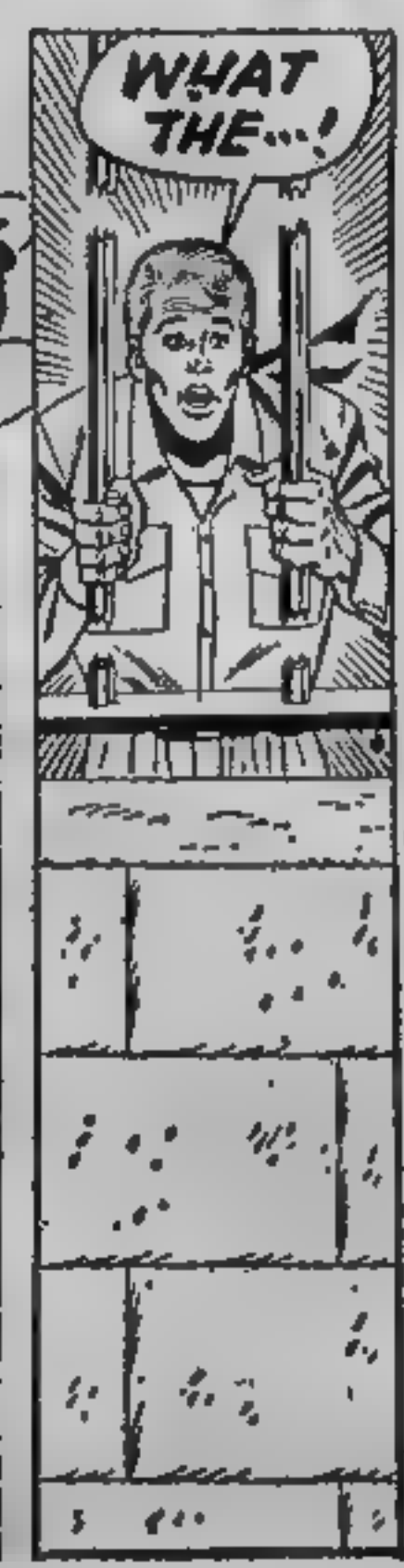

TEX

The MYSTERY MAN FLED...BUT THE NAME ON THE GUN BUTT SEEMED CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE...
...AND IT IS THE JUDGMENT OF THIS COURT THAT YOU BE HANGED FOR YOUR CRIME!

BUT YOU SAW HUTCH CARVER STEAL THAT GUN...WHICH MEANS THAT HE'S THE GUILTY MAN AND TEX IS INNOCENT! WHY DIDN'T YOU SPEAK UP AND TELL WHAT HAD HAPPENED?
BECAUSE THIS IS THE WAY THE TRIAL WAS; THE ACTUAL SENTENCE HANDED DOWN BY THE JUDGE. IT'S HISTORY AND I'VE GOT TO RESPECT IT!

BUT YOU COULDN'T SHUT A WOMAN UP THAT EASILY. AS THE TIME FOR TEX'S EXECUTION NEARED...
YOU CAN'T LET IT HAPPEN!
HE'S INNOCENT!
HISTORY OR NO HISTORY, I'M NOT GOING TO STAND BY AND SEE A GOOD GUY RAILROADED TO HIS DEATH!
OKAY! I...I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...I PROMISE. ONLY SHUT UP, WILL YOU?

ON THE NIGHT BEFORE HE WAS TO DIE...
OH, WHAT SORT OF FOOL AM I, ANYWAY? THESE BARS ARE SO SOLID YOU'D NEED AN EARTHQUAKE TO BREAK 'EM!

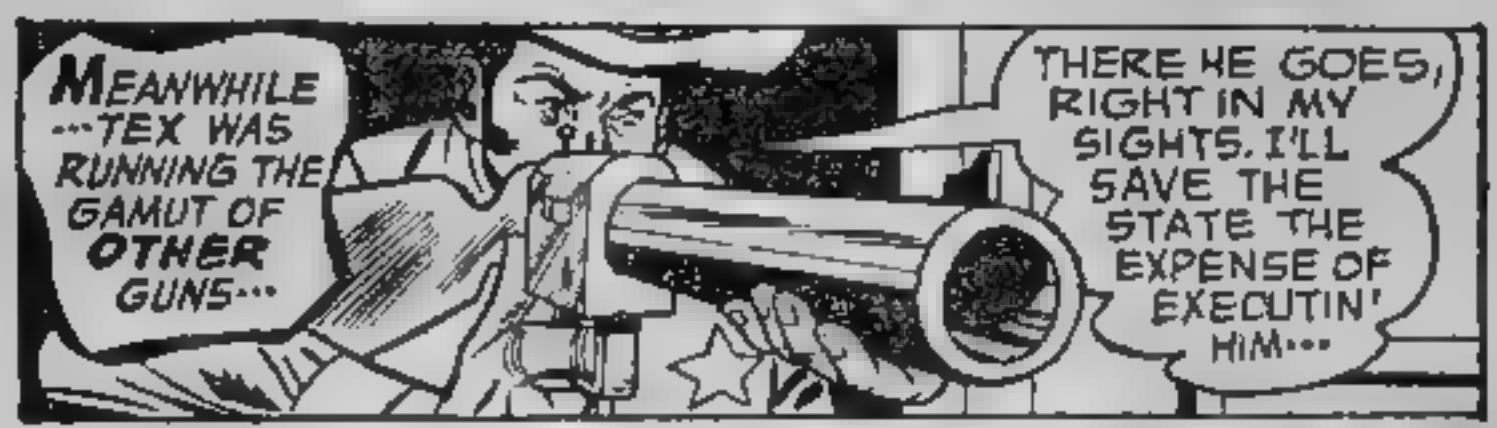

WHAT THE...!

HE'LL NEVER KNOW THAT IT WAS MY SUPERNATURAL POWERS THAT SHATTERED THOSE BARS! NOW LET'S SEE IF HE CAN REALLY GET AWAY...

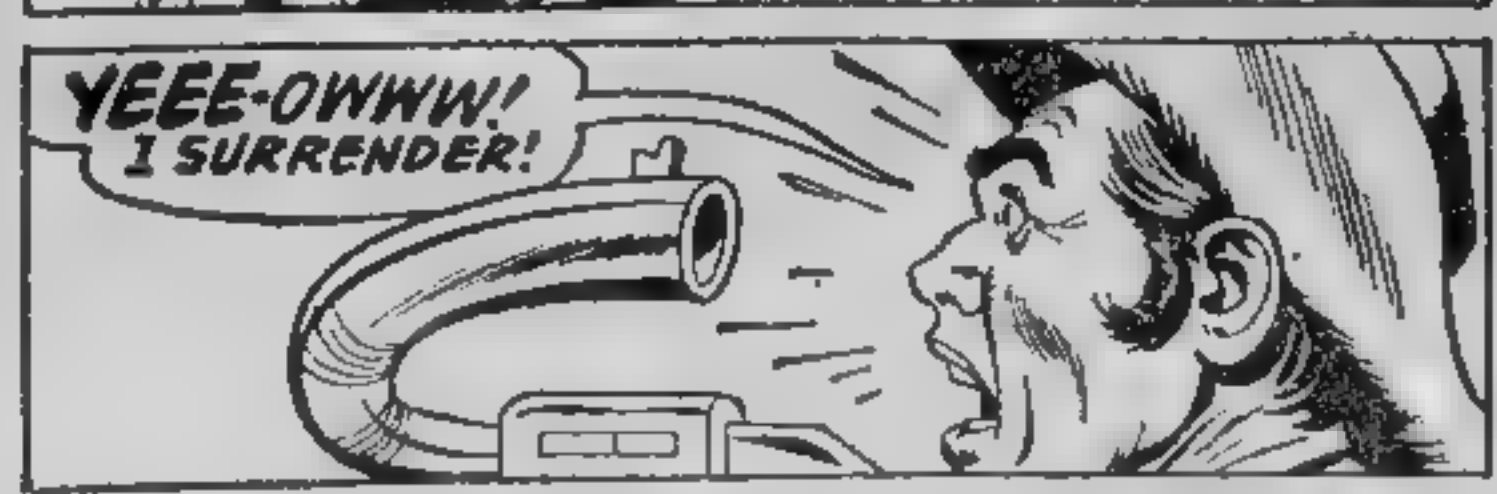
THINKS HE'S GETTIN' AWAY, DOES HE? THIS'LL BE AN EASY SHOT...I CAN'T MISS!

BUT BEFORE HE COULD PRESS THE TRIGGER---
URP!
NO YOU DON'T!

HELP! H-HELP!


MEANWHILE ---TEX WAS RUNNING THE GAMUT OF OTHER GUNS---
THERE HE GOES, RIGHT IN MY SIGHTS. I'LL SAVE THE STATE THE EXPENSE OF EXECUTIN' HIM---

HUH?
WHOOSH!


YEEE-OWWW! I SURRENDER!

THEY'RE AFTER ME---AND I CAN'T FIGGER OUT HOW I'M GONNA GET OVER THE WALL---

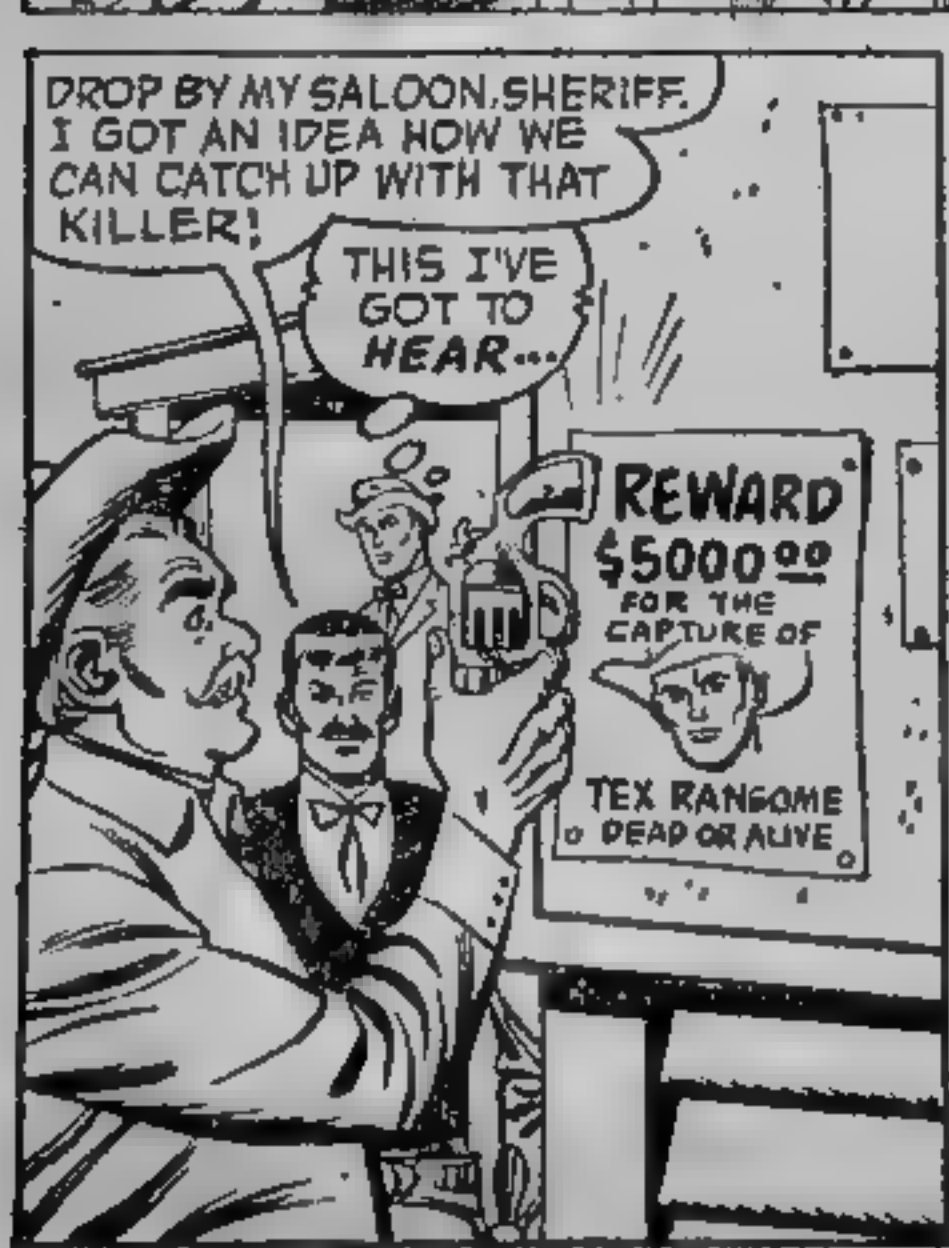
ZOOM!
CRASH!

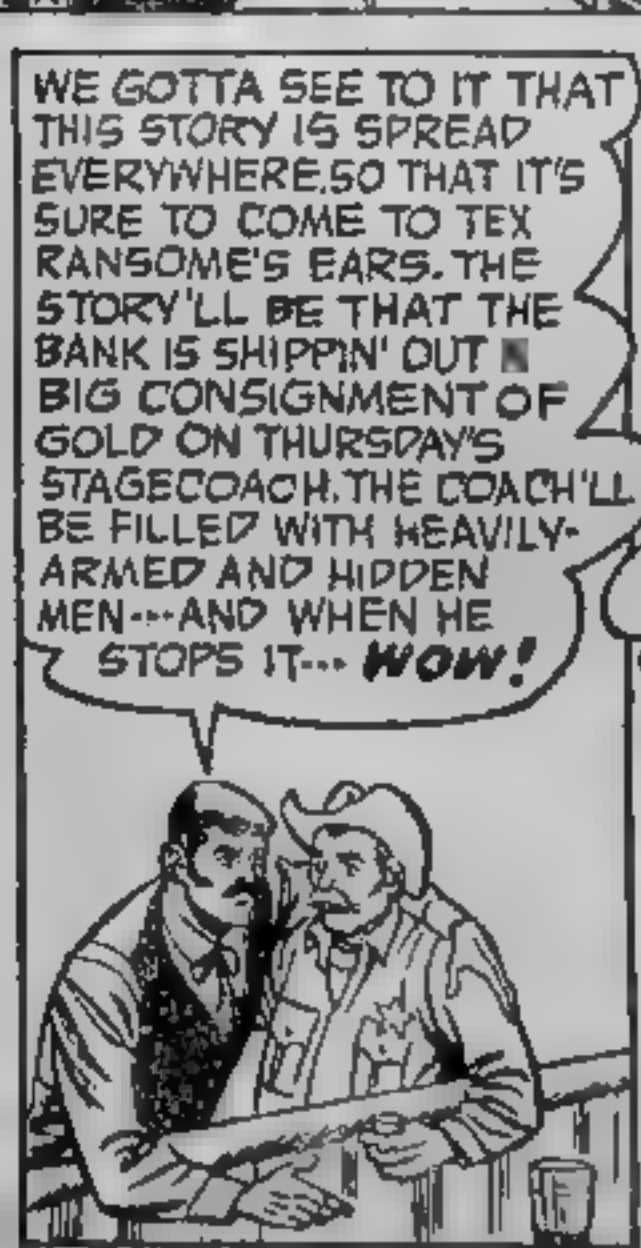
WELL, I'LL BE··· WHERE D THAT COME FROM?

BEYOND THE PRISON WALLS···
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME, NEMESIS. YOU DID IT···YOU SAVED HIS LIFE!
RIGHT···BUT NOW HE'S A FUGITIVE! I SAW HIM GRAB A HORSE AND ESCAPE. NOW IF HE'LL ONLY GET OUT OF THIS COUNTRY WHILE HE'S STILL ALIVE·

BUT INSTEAD, TEX REACTED WITH BITTERNESS, SEEKING HIS REVENGE FOR THE WAY HE HAD BEEN PERSECUTED, HE TURNED TO THE LIFE OF A DESPERADO, A HIGHWAYMAN···

HIS RAIDS TERRORIZED A WIDE AREA AROUND GILA PASS···


DROP BY MY SALOON, SHERIFF. I GOT AN IDEA HOW WE CAN CATCH UP WITH THAT KILLER!
THIS I'VE GOT TO HEAR···
REWARD
$5000.00
FOR THE CAPTURE OF
TEX RANSOME
DEAD OR ALIVE


WE GOTTA SEE TO IT THAT THIS STORY IS SPREAD EVERYWHERE, SO THAT IT'S SURE TO COME TO TEX RANSOME'S EARS. THE STORY'LL BE THAT THE BANK IS SHIPPIN' OUT A BIG CONSIGNMENT OF GOLD ON THURSDAY'S STAGECOACH. THE COACH'LL BE FILLED WITH HEAVILY-ARMED AND HIDDEN MEN···AND WHEN HE STOPS IT··· WOW!

THEY DIDN'T KNOW THAT THEY HAD A SUPERNATURAL LISTENER···
GET IT, SHERIFF? AND HAVE YOUR DEPUTIES FIRE ON SIGHT··· BECAUSE THEY ALL KNOW WHAT A DANGEROUS KILLER TEX IS!

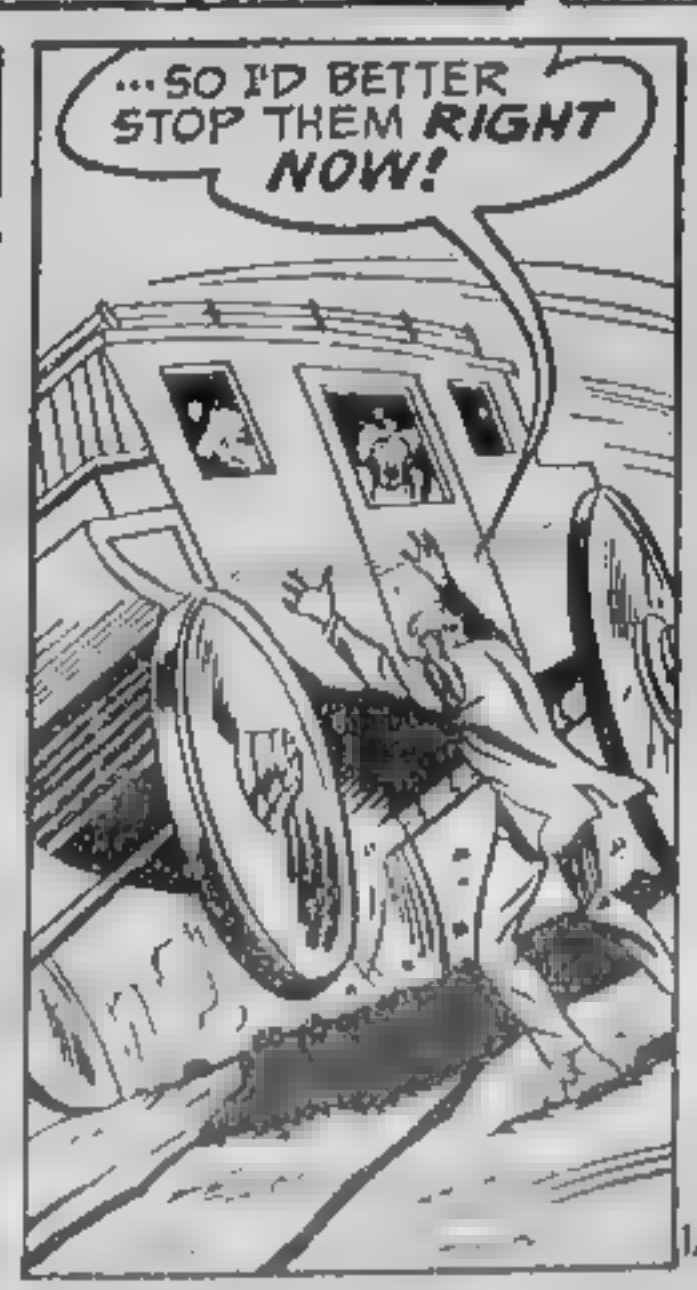
SO LONG, CARVER. GREAT IDEA OF YOURS --SHOWS WHAT A PUBLIC-SPIRITED CITIZEN YOU ARE.
PUBLIC-SPIRITED NUTS! TEX RANSOME BEAT ME UP--- HE TOOK THE GAL WHO SHOULDA BEEN MINE...AND MY REVENGE WON'T BE COMPLETE WHILE HE'S STILL ALIVE!

CAME THURSDAY---AND THE STAGECOACH WAS ABOUT TO START OFF WITH ITS CARGO OF ARMED DEPUTIES---
BUT SHERIFF, I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WE WANT TO TAKE THE STAGE-COACH...
LET 'EM! THINGS'LL LOOK NATURAL SEEIN' 'EM SEATED IN THE COACH WINDOW---AND TEX WON'T GET SUSPICIOUS!

I'M SCARED--- WHAT'S GOING TO STOP THEM FROM SHOOTING HIM DOWN IF HE DOES APPEAR---?
LET'S JUST HOPE HE DOESN'T!

BUT---HE DID!
HI-YI! PULL UP, THAR!
BAM!
BAM!

BEFORE THE GUNS COULD BE BROUGHT INTO PLAY---STEVE MADE HIS BID!
WE'RE GETTING OUT OF THERE! I'VE GOT THEIR GUNS, BUT THEY'LL BE GOING FOR THEIR PISTOLS NEXT---


...SO I'D BETTER STOP THEM RIGHT NOW!

EEE-YOWWW!
HELP!
BAM!
CRASH!

HANGED IF I CAN FIGGER OUT WHAT KIND OF MAN YOU ARE! BUT ALL I KNOW IS THAT THIS MUST HAVE BEEN A PLOT TO GET ME, AND I CAN'T TRUST ANYBODY! MARCH, YOU TWO ··· I'M TAKIN' YOU TO MY HIDEOUT UNTIL I DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH YOU.

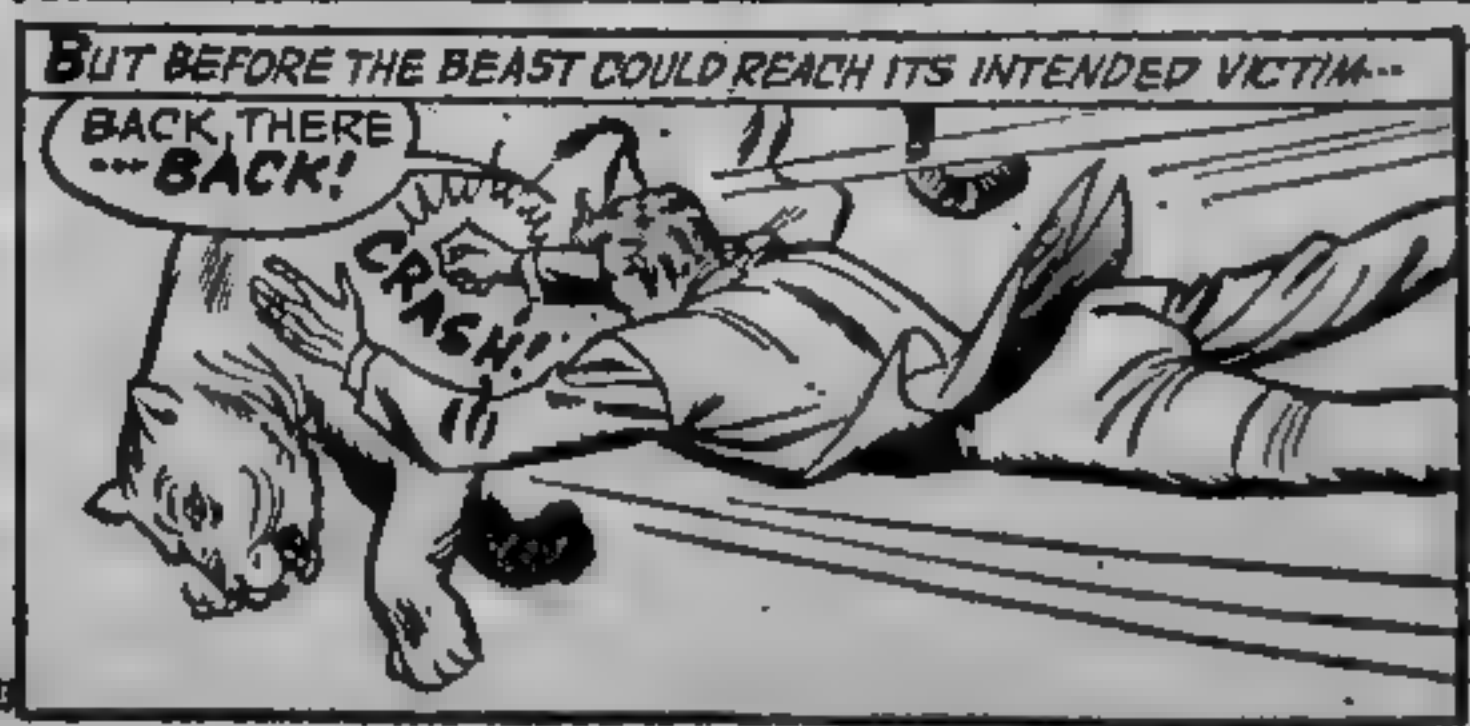
HE'S BECOME ALL BRUTE, ALL EVIL···

···THERE'S NOT A TRACE OF THE MILK OF HUMAN KINDNESS LEFT IN HIM!
BZZZ-ZZZ

LOOK OUT!
WE OWE HIM SOMETHING FOR THAT! THERE MUST BE SOME GOOD LEFT IN HIM···HE DIDN'T HAVE TO SAVE YOUR LIFE, BUT HE DID!
BAM!

STEVE'S CHANCE TO REPAY THE DEBT CAME SOON···
WE'RE COMIN' ONTO A MOUNTAIN TRAIL··· I'LL GO FIRST TO SEE IF IT'S OKAY.
RRR-RRRR···

RRRRRRROWW!


BUT BEFORE THE BEAST COULD REACH ITS INTENDED VICTIM···
BACK THERE ···BACK!
CRASH!

GARR-RRRRR...
BETTER FINISH HIM OFF...

...BEFORE HE CAN GET ME!

THERE! I'M SQUARE WITH TEX NOW FOR WHAT HE DID FOR LITA!
EEEE-EEEEEE!

I...I'VE NEVER SEEN A MAN LIKE YOU BEFORE...I DUNNO HOW I CAN THANK YOU! YOU SEE, I...I'VE GOTTEN SO USED TO BEIN' DOUBLE-CROSSED...LIKE THE WHOLE WORLD WAS AGAINST ME.
IT'S GOING TO BE DIFFERENT FROM NOW ON...JUST WAIT AND SEE!

BUT SHORTLY AFTER, IT SEEMED AS IF STEVE HAD BEEN WRONG...AND THAT THE WHOLE WORLD WAS STILL AGAINST TEX RANSOME! IT STARTED LIKE THIS...
THIS IS THE TIME EVERY THURSDAY WHEN I SNEAK IN AND VISIT MY GIRL-FRIEND. I ALWAYS SEE IF THE COAST IS CLEAR FIRST...

OH, NO...NO... IT C-CAN'T BE! THAT CAN'T HAPPEN TO ME TOO...
WHY, WHAT'S WRONG?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! I...I'LL KILL HIM FOR THIS...AND AFTER THAT, I'LL ATTEND TO HER, THAT LYING, TREACHEROUS JEZEBEL...

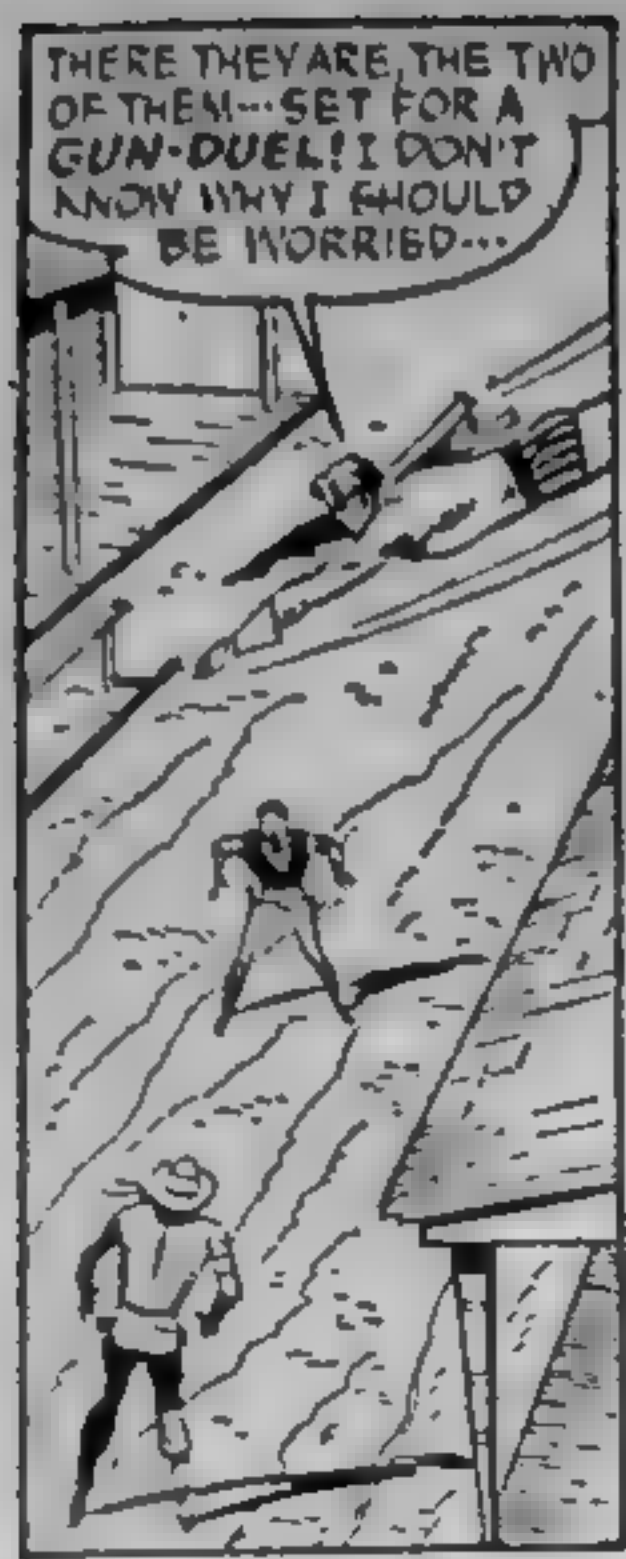
THERE WAS ONLY ONE HOUSE IN THE DIRECTION IN WHICH TEX HAD TRAINED THE GLASSES AND LOOKING THROUGH THEM STEVE SAW···
YES···JUST LIKE THE STORY THAT THE GRIM REAPER TOLD US WENT··· HIS GIRL, IN THE ARMS OF HIS WORST ENEMY. AND NOW HE'S GOING TO GET THAT ENEMY!

BUT HE'S RIDING STRAIGHT INTO THE GUN-DUEL THAT'S GOING TO KILL H.M!
THAT'S RIGHT! AND THE POOR GUY··· NONE OF THIS HAS BEEN HIS FAULT! MAYBE IF I CAN INTERCEPT H.M, LITA··· I CAN CHANGE HISTORY!

IT'S TIME FOR NEMESIS AGAIN! ···TEX MAY HAVE HEADED FOR THE GIRL'S HOUSE FIRST ···IF SO, MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO HEAD HIM OFF THERE!

BUT TEX HADN'T GONE THERE. INSTEAD, NEMESIS FOUND···
NUH? YOU'RE TIED UP···
PLEASE··· GET ME LOOSE!

HOW COME YOU LET HUTCH CARVER MAKE LOVE TO YOU? AND DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T, BECAUSE I WITNESSED THE SCENE!
THE WHOLE THING WAS A PLANT! CARVER SPIED ON ME, KNEW THAT TEX WOULD SNEAK IN TO VISIT ME AT THIS TIME, BUT THAT HE'D USE HIS FIELDGLASSES FIRST TO SEE IF THE COAST WAS CLEAR. HE CAME HERE, TIED ME UP AND WAITED UNTIL HE SAW THE GLINT OF THE GLASSES···
···AND THEN HE STAGED THAT LOVE-SCENE, USING ONE OF HIS DANCE-HALL GIRLS WEARING THAT WIG!
I GET IT! THE IDEA WAS TO LURE TEX IN! HE'S PROBABLY RIDDEN INTO TOWN TO GET HUTCH CARVER ···WHO'S EXPECTING HIM! HE'S WALKING INTO A TRAP!
NEMESIS WAS RIGHT! MINUTES LATER···IN GILA PASS···
ALL RIGHT, HUTCH CARVER···I'M HERE AND I'M WAITIN' FOR YOU! COME OUT SHOOTIN'!
GOT IT STRAIGHT? POSITION YOURSELF···AND TIME YOUR SHOT WITH MINE!


THERE THEY ARE, THE TWO OF THEM--- SET FOR A GUN-DUEL! I DON'T KNOW WHY I SHOULD BE WORRIED---

--TEX KNOWS HOW TO TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF WITH A COLT 45!

WHAT THE---SO THAT'S IT! TEX WAS NEVER KILLED BY HUTCH'S SHOT AT ALL--- BUT BY THE BULLET OF A BUSHWHACKER PLANTED TO GET HIM!

I SAID I WAS GOING TO CHANGE HISTORY --- SO HERE GOES!
BANG!
WHAM!

THE SOUND OF THE SHOT AND THE SIGHT OF TEX STILL ERECT RATTLED HUTCH CARVER. WILDLY, HE CUT LOOSE WITH A VOLLEY OF BULLETS---
I'LL--- G-GET YOU---
BAM! BAM!
BAM! BAM!
MISSED, MISTER...

---BUT I WON'T!
ARGH!
BRAM!

WAIT A SECOND, TEX. WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
AWAY FROM THIS COUNTRY---MY MISSION HERE IS FINISHED. THERE ARE TOO MANY MEMORIES AROUND HERE OF HER--- THE GIRL WHO DID ME DIRT!

THE ONLY THING THAT DID YOU DIRT WAS SEEING THIS THROUGH YOUR FIELD-GLASSES···THE BLONDE WIG WORN BY ONE OF CARVER'S DANCEHALL GIRLS! YOUR REAL GIRL WAS TIED UP WHILE ALL THIS WAS GOING ON. IT WAS JUST A RUSE TO LURE YOU INTO A TRAP!

HOLD IT, RANSOME···I WANT YOU! YOU RAN OUT ON YOUR EXECUTION BEFORE, BUT YOU WON'T DO IT AGAIN!
OH-HHH···
HUTCH CARVER'S STILL ALIVE! THERE'S STILL A WAY OUT OF THIS···BUT I'LL NEED THE GRIM REAPER TO HELP!

THROUGH SPACE WINGED A DESPERATE PLEA FOR HELP ···AND THE GRIM REAPER RESPONDED···
THE G-GRIM REAPER! B-BUT THERE'S SOME M'STAKE. I'M NOT DYING···JUST HURT A LITTLE···
NO. MY SON. DEATH HOVERS CLOSE TO YOU···AND I'VE COME TO COLLECT YOUR SOUL!

IF YOU'VE GOT ANYTHING ON YOUR CONSCIENCE, YOU HAD BETTER CONFESS IT···OR IT WILL GO HARD WITH YOU IN THE OTHER WORLD!
I···I'LL CONFESS··· J-JUST SPARE ME! I DID THAT BANK JOB ···I DID THE SHOOTING THAT I FRAMED TEX RANSOME FOR BY USING HIS G-GUN!

OKAY, SHERIFF, YOU HEARD IT ALL! AND IF TEX ACTED LIKE A BADMAN, IT WAS BECAUSE HE WAS EMBITTERED AT THE WAY THE WORLD SEEMED TO HAVE TURNED AGAINST HIM!
THE PROCEEDS OF MY JOBS ···I'VE GOT MOST OF IT LEFT AND I'LL RETURN IT. AND I NEVER HURT ANYBODY···
HMMM···WHEN THE PUBLIC HEARS THE FACTS, THEY'LL ALL VOTE FOR THE LAW GOIN' EASY ON YOU. YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY FOR WHAT YOU DID···BUT I'LL SEE THAT IT WON'T TAKE LONG!

TEX KNEW WHO'D BE WAITING FOR HIM WHEN HE CAME OUT···
GOODBYE, AMY DARLIN'. IT···IT'S NOT GONNA BE FOR LONG···
I'D WAIT FOREVER FOR YOU, TEX!
STATE PRISON
AND AS FOR NEMESIS···
YOU'RE BACK HOME LITA. TELL ME···DO YOU STILL THINK YOU WANT TO TRADE ME IN FOR SOME JOE JUST BECAUSE HE'S ALIVE···?
OKAY, NEMESIS, YOU BIG GOOF. I GUESS I'M CRAZY, BUT ANYTIME YOU FIND YOURSELF ON EARTH···WELL ···I'LL BE HERE, WAITING FOR YOU!
THE END!

THE COURT WAS CROWDED, THAT HOT DAY IN JULY, 1994! THE FATEFUL TRIAL WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN! THERE WAS JUST ONE HITCH... THE WITNESSES WERE TWO MILLION MILES OUT IN SPACE!

"There Were 3 Victims!"

"All the news of the Universe"

The Times~Universe

EARTH EDITION Weather Fair

FIVE CENTS

VOL. CXII ... NEW YORK, TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1994.

4 DESPERATE CONVICTS STILL AT LARGE

POLICE FEAR ESCAPED PRISONERS HAVE ELUDED DRAGNET! MEN ARE ARMED, DANGEROUS!

HARVEY DODD 211814 · MATT AXIY 3113917 · JOE CARVER 624161 · KNUTE JONES 884991

CAPT. FRANK SUTTON AND 3-MAN CREW CARRY NEWS, MAIL, TO SETTLERS ON MARS!

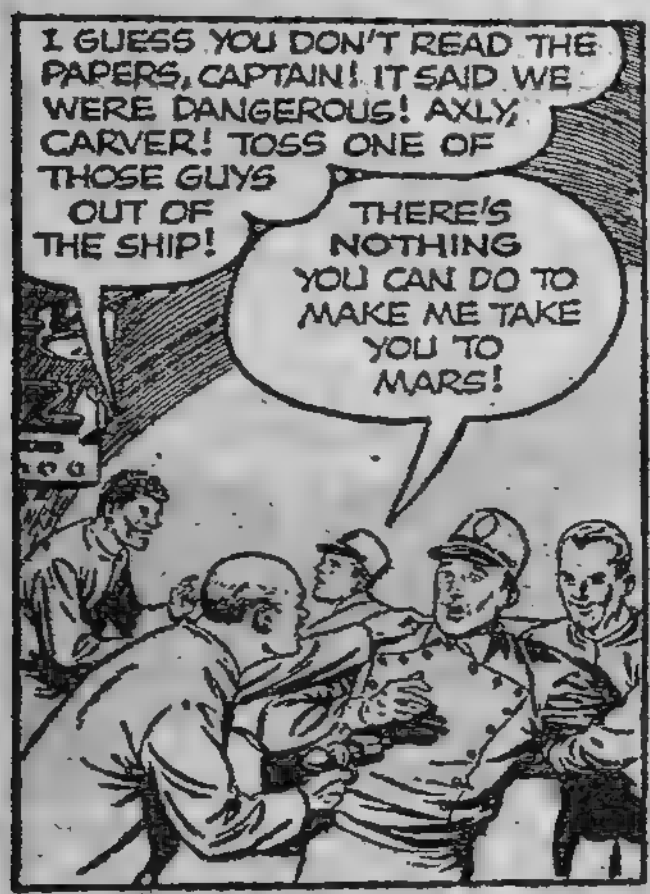
ROCKET SHIP GALAXY TAKES OFF AT 1600 HOURS!

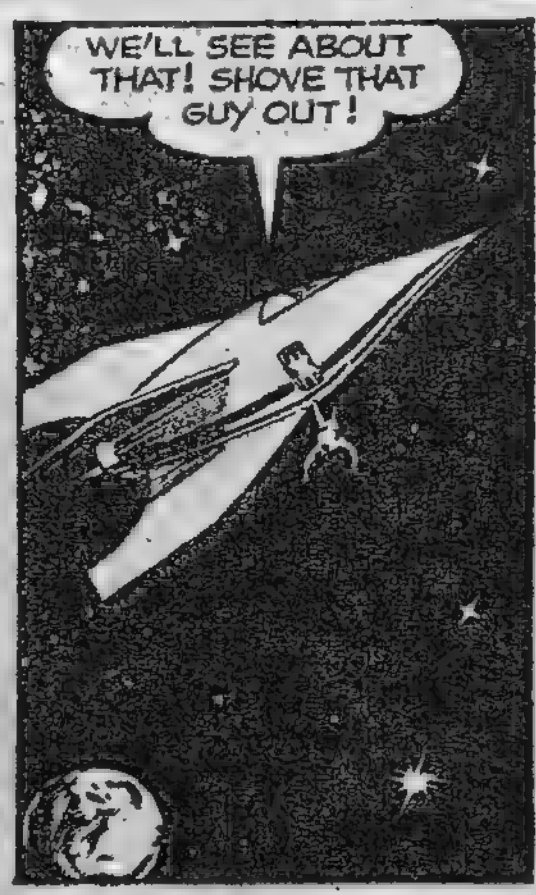
IT'S THE EDITORS GUARANTEE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST ASTONISHING STORIES YOU'VE EVER READ!

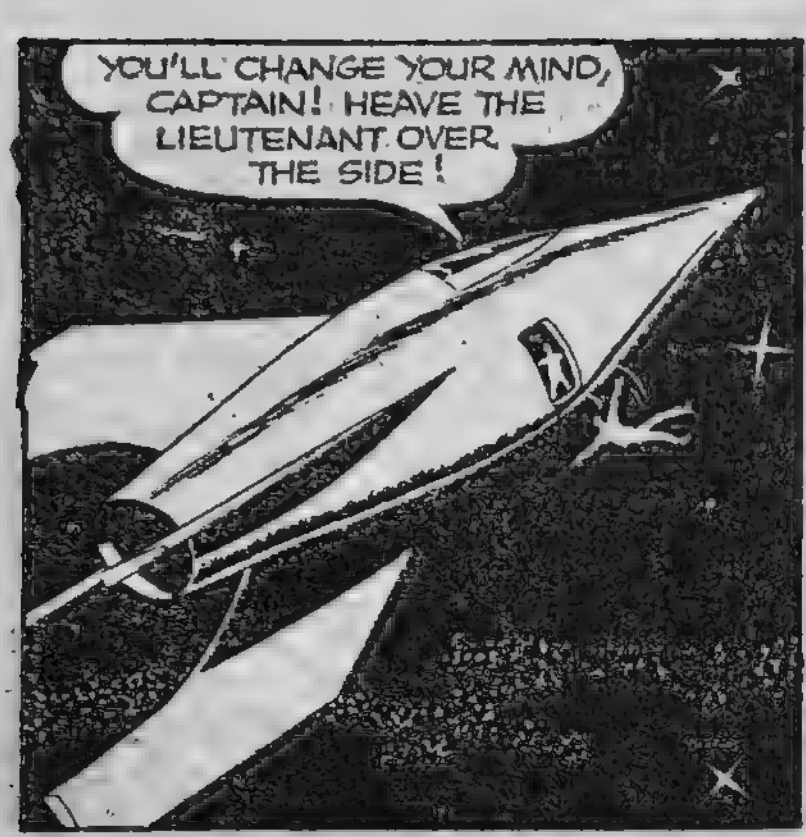
J-994

THE "GALAXY" WAS TWO WEEKS OUT IN THE CLOUDLESS EMPTINESS OF SPACE! FOR ONE WHO'D MADE THE VOYAGE TO MARS MANY TIMES, THE JOURNEY HAD BECOME MONOTONOUS! CAPTAIN FRANK SUTTON WAS BORED..."

THE ASTONISHED CREW OF THE GALAXY GAPED! THE HARD-EYED STOWAWAYS MOVED FROM THEIR HIDING PLACE...







CAPTAIN FRANK SUTTON SAT STARING STONILY AT THE FOUR, EVIL MEN! EVEN WHEN THE THIRD VICTIM, RIDDLEY, WAS THREATENED, HE REFUSED TO VIOLATE THE SPACE CODE...

HARVEY DODD AND HIS FELLOW FUGITIVES LOOKED SCORNFULLY AT THE PILOT WHO COULDN'T FACE HIS FATE WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN! SUTTON TOUCHED OFF THE ROCKETS...

THE FOUR DESPERADOES TOOK TURNS AROUND THE CLOCK, SEEING TO IT THAT FRANK DIDN'T TURN THE SHIP AROUND AND HEAD FOR EARTH...

THE "GALAXY" MADE A GENTLE LANDING... THE FOUR CONVICTS HURRIED FROM THE SHIP...

LATER, FRANK BROUGHT CHARGES AGAINST THE CONVICTS IN THE COURT OF JUDGE LLOYD TARBEL...

...YES, YOUR HONOR, I WILL HAVE WITNESSES AT THE TRIAL! BUT I'LL NEED A FEW WEEKS TO HAVE THEM READY!

VERY WELL, CAPTAIN SUTTON!

THREE WEEKS LATER, AT THE START OF THE TRIAL, THE ACCUSED WERE CONFIDENT, AS THEIR LAWYER CHALLENGED FRANK SUTTON...

YOU'VE STATED THAT THE FOUR MEN ON TRIAL DELIBERATELY THREW YOUR CREWMEN OUT OF THE ROCKET SHIP "GALAXY" TWO MILLION MILES OUT IN SPACE! SINCE THERE WERE ONLY FOUR OF YOU ON THE SHIP! YOU MUST BE THE ONLY WITNESS, CAPTAIN!

NO, SIR! THERE WERE OTHERS!

MORE ACTUAL WITNESSES TO THIS ALLEGED ACT OF MURDER?

ATTEMPTED MURDER! I CAN PROVE THEIR GUILT! FIRST, I'D LIKE TO EXPLAIN SOMETHING...

PLEASE BE BRIEF, CAPTAIN SUTTON!

HARVEY DODD AND HIS FELLOW CONVICTS, KNOWING NOTHING ABOUT SCIENTIFIC MATTERS, THREW THEIR THREE VICTIMS FROM MY SHIP IN NEUTRA! THAT IS THE ZONE WHERE THERE'S NO GRAVITY! THEREFORE BODIES HAVE NO WEIGHT!

"LT. WARNER, VANCE AND RIDDLEY DID NOT FALL THROUGH SPACE, BEING WEIGHTLESS! INSTEAD, THEY EASILY TURNED THE "GALAXY" AROUND AND HEADED HER BACK TOWARD EARTH! MY MEN KNEW I WASN'T LETTING THEM DOWN!"

YOUR HONOR, I'VE SPENT THE LAST THREE WEEKS GATHERING WITNESSES...

THE ENTIRE COURT WAS ELECTRIFIED WHEN, SUDDENLY, THEY WERE AWARE OF THE THREE MEN WHO HAD ENTERED!

...FROM OUTER SPACE!

THE END

HERE HE IS, FOLKS...
"the GORILLA from OUTER SPACE!"
LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT HIM!
IT HAD ALL STARTED OUT AS A GAG, BUT SOMETIMES EVEN A GAG CAN GET OUT OF CONTROL! BUT LET'S HEAR THE WHOLE STORY FROM THE LIPS OF THE MAN WHO KNOWS IT BEST...
1

THEY SAY THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS, BUT FOR ME, MIKE MULLINS, SHOW BUSINESS WAS NO BUSINESS!

SORRY, MIKE, THE BOSS SAYS HE DOESN'T NEED A VENTRILOQUIST RIGHT NOW!

BAH! YOUR BOSS IS A FOOL--SAME AS ALL THE BOOKING AGENTS!

STOP WASTING MY TIME, MIKE! NOBODY WANTS TO HIRE VENTRILOQUISTS!

NO!

SORRY...

CAN'T USE YOU!

BIG DEAL! WHO CARES?

BUT I'M THE BEST VENTRILOQUIST IN SHOW BUSINESS!

MAYBE ANYONE ELSE WOULD HAVE GIVEN UP AND STARTED LOOKING FOR A JOB--BUT NOT ME! I WASN'T GONNA WORK FOR A LIVING LIKE SOME CRUMB-BUM!

HERE ARE THE HELP-WANTED ADS! BAH! THAT'S FOR GUYS WITH NO TALENT!

THAT AIN'T FOR A GENIUS LIKE ME!

AND THEN I SAW IT! THE ARTICLE WHICH GAVE ME MY BRAINSTORM!

HEY! THIS GIVES ME AN IDEA HOW TO GET SOME PUBLICITY FOR MYSELF AND MAKE FOOLS OF THE POLICE!

POLICE CAPTURE GORILLA IN PARK!

"MUST HAVE ESCAPED FROM CIRCUS" SAYS CHIEF! PLACED

THERE'S A BIG CROWD AROUND THE GORILLA! GOOD! THAT'S PERFECT FOR MY LITTLE SCHEME!

IMAGINE FINDING A GORILLA WANDERING AROUND THE PARK! IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE!

LISTEN! HE'S TALKING!

LET ME OUTTA HERE!

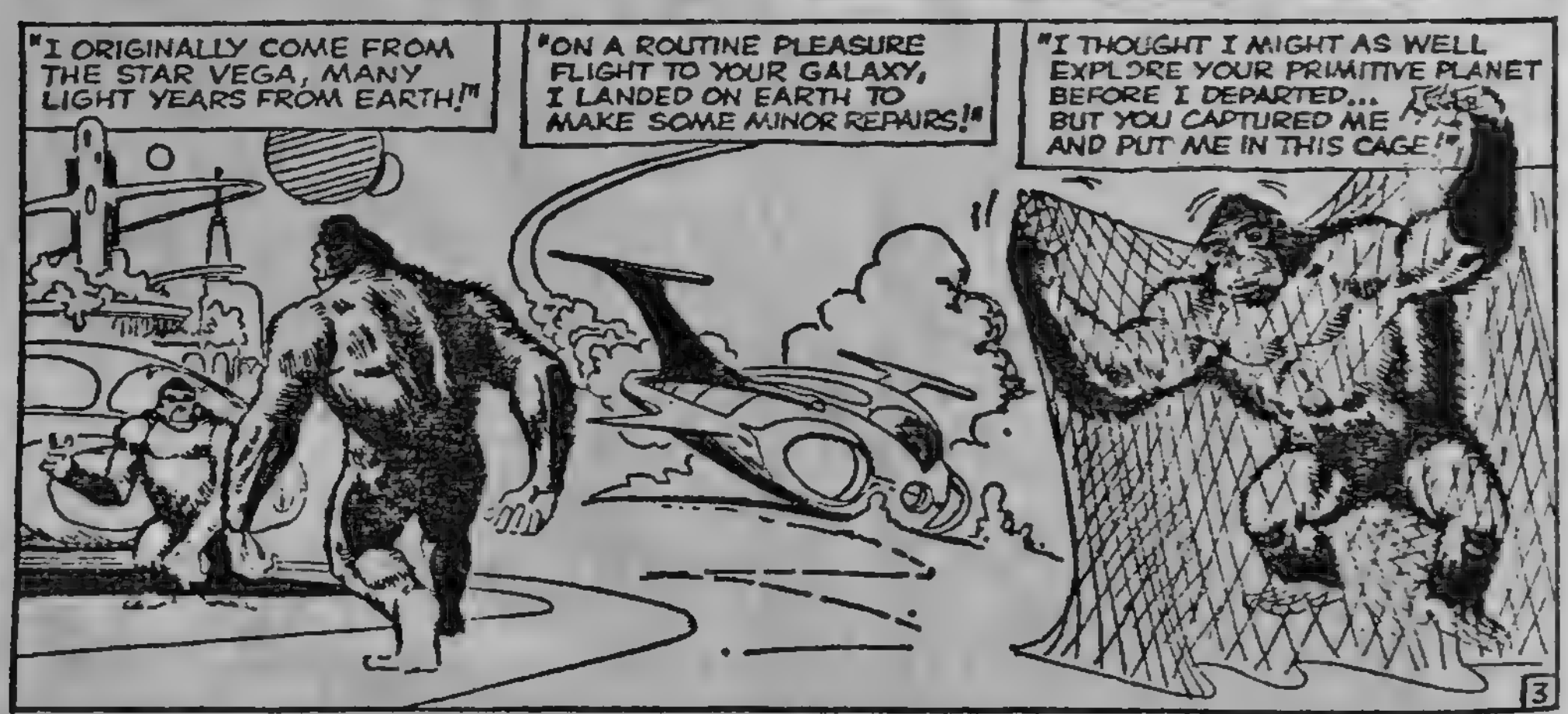
OPEN THIS CAGE!

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I'M NOT A GORILLA! I'M A VISITOR TO EARTH-- FROM OUTER SPACE!

HE CAN TALK! HE MUST BE TELLING THE TRUTH!
A VISITOR FROM OUTER SPACE! AND WE PUT HIM IN A CAGE!
THIS IS RICH! NOBODY SUSPECTS IT'S JUST ME --THROWING MY VOICE!

THIS IS SURE TO BECOME HEADLINE NEWS! AND ONCE PEOPLE LEARN THAT I'M RESPONSIBLE, I'LL BE ABLE TO NAME MY OWN PRICE FOR TV SHOWS AND MOVIES! I'LL BE FAMOUS!

LISTEN TO ME-- I'LL TELL YOU MY STORY...
NOW I'VE GOT TO MAKE UP A REAL GOOD YARN, TO CONVINCE THESE SUCKERS!


"I ORIGINALLY COME FROM THE STAR VEGA, MANY LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH!"
"ON A ROUTINE PLEASURE FLIGHT TO YOUR GALAXY, I LANDED ON EARTH TO MAKE SOME MINOR REPAIRS!"
"I THOUGHT I MIGHT AS WELL EXPLORE YOUR PRIMITIVE PLANET BEFORE I DEPARTED... BUT YOU CAPTURED ME AND PUT ME IN THIS CAGE!"

AH, HERE COME SOME ZOO OFFICIALS!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE??
WE HEARD THE GORILLA WAS T-TALKING!

OF COURSE I'M TALKING, YOU LAMEBRAINS!
I'LL WAIT TILL THE REPORTERS GET HERE, AND THEN I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING! BOY, THE PUBLICITY WILL BE WORTH A MILLION BUCKS TO ME!

WE HAVE OBVIOUSLY MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE! THIS IS NO ORDINARY GORILLA! OPEN THE CAGE! HE MUST BE FREED, AND TREATED WITH THE COURTESY DUE TO A VISITOR FROM OUTER SPACE!
HEY--WAIT! DON'T OPEN THE CAGE!

HOLY SMOKE! I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS!
FORGIVE US, SIR! WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE CIVILIZED!

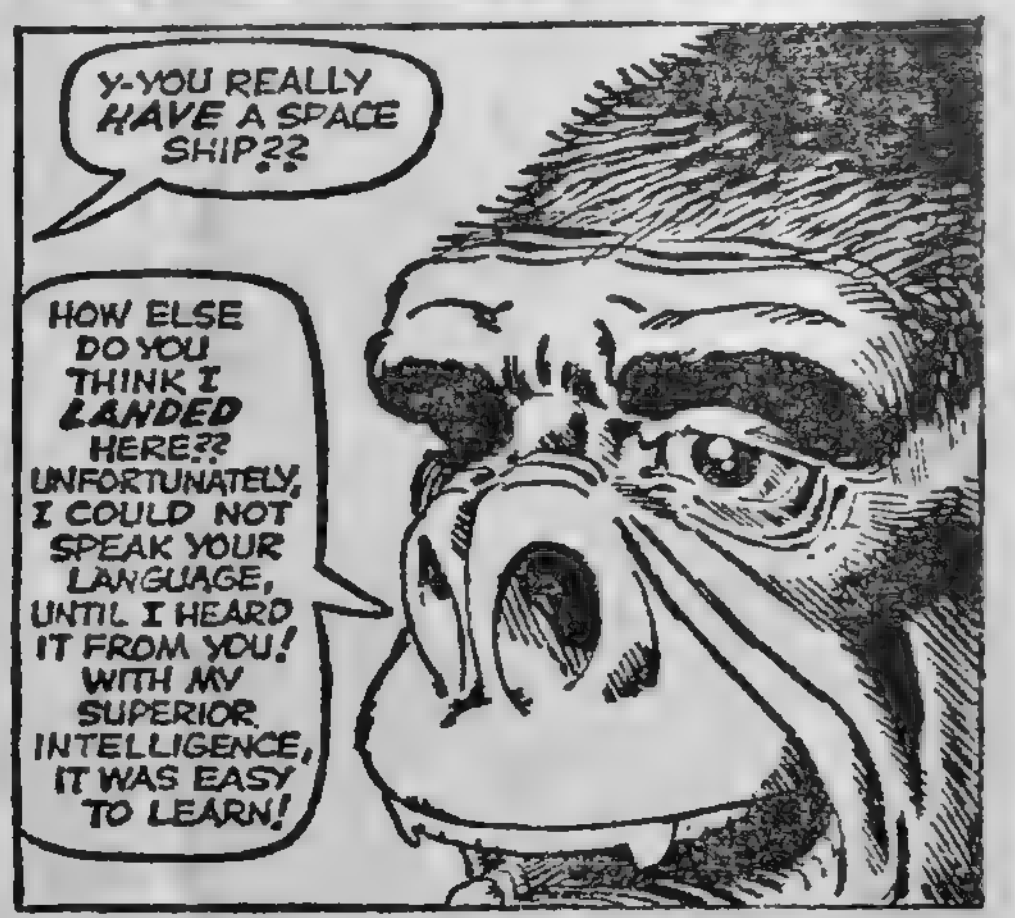
WHA-WHAT'LL I DO??? HE'S COMIN TOWARD ME!

HE'S GRABBIN' ME! WAIT! STOP! HELP!

WHY DOESN'T SOMEONE STOP HIM?? HELP, SOMEBODY!
STOP SCREAMING, MISTER! HE MUST WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU PRIVATELY! THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR! HE'S OBVIOUSLY CIVILIZED!

THEY--THEY DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO SAVE ME! MY ACT WAS TOO GOOD! THEY THINK HE REALLY IS AN ALIEN FROM SPACE! B-BUT WHAT HAPPENS TO ME NOW??? WHERE'S HE TAKIN' ME???

I'M TAKING YOU TO MY SPACE SHIP, OF COURSE!
INASMUCH AS YOU WERE THE ONLY HUMAN WHO GUESSED MY SECRET, I THOUGHT YOU WOULD WANT TO SEE IT!


Y-YOU REALLY HAVE A SPACE SHIP??
HOW ELSE DO YOU THINK I LANDED HERE?? UNFORTUNATELY, I COULD NOT SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE, UNTIL I HEARD IT FROM YOU! WITH MY SUPERIOR INTELLIGENCE, IT WAS EASY TO LEARN!

AND NOW, I SHALL REWARD YOU FOR HELPING ME! I SHALL TAKE YOU TO MY PLANET, VEGA, AS MY GUEST! THE TRIP WILL TAKE A FEW MONTHS, BUT IT WILL BE SO NICE TO HAVE COMPANY! COME ALONG, MY NEW, LITTLE, HUMAN FRIEND!

"AND SO HERE I AM, ON MY WAY TO VEGA, WHEREVER THAT IS! I'VE FINALLY PROVED THAT I'M THE GREATEST VENTRILOQUIST ON EARTH, AND LOOK WHAT IT GOT ME! ALL I CAN THINK OF NOW IS--"
ME AND MY BIG MOUTH!
the END

THEY VANISHED FOREVER!

CAPTAIN WILLIAM REYNOLDS HAS BEEN SAILING SINCE HE WAS A LAD! BY NOW THE SEA HOLDS NO MORE SURPRISES FOR HIM... OR SO HE THINKS...

I MISS THE GOOD OLD DAYS, WHEN THE HIGH SEAS HELD THE PROMISE OF ADVENTURE AND MYSTERY! NOT LIKE TODAY...

SKIPPER-- THERE'S A SHIP OFF STARBOARD!

IT'S THE "MOLLY BROWNE"!

STRANGE-- THERE'S NO ONE ON DECK!

THE SHIP JUST SEEMS TO BE DRIFTING!

I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS! THE "MOLLY BROWNE" WAS DUE TO ARRIVE AT AUSTRALIA TWO DAYS AGO!

PULL ALONGSIDE! WE'LL BOARD HER!

AHOY! IS THERE ANYONE ABOARD ??!

NO ANSWER!

THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF FOOD AND SUPPLIES ON BOARD!

AND SHE'S CARRYING A FULL CARGO!

IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!

WHY WOULD AN ENTIRE CREW LEAVE A SEAWORTHY SHIP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN ??

BEATS ME, SKIPPER!

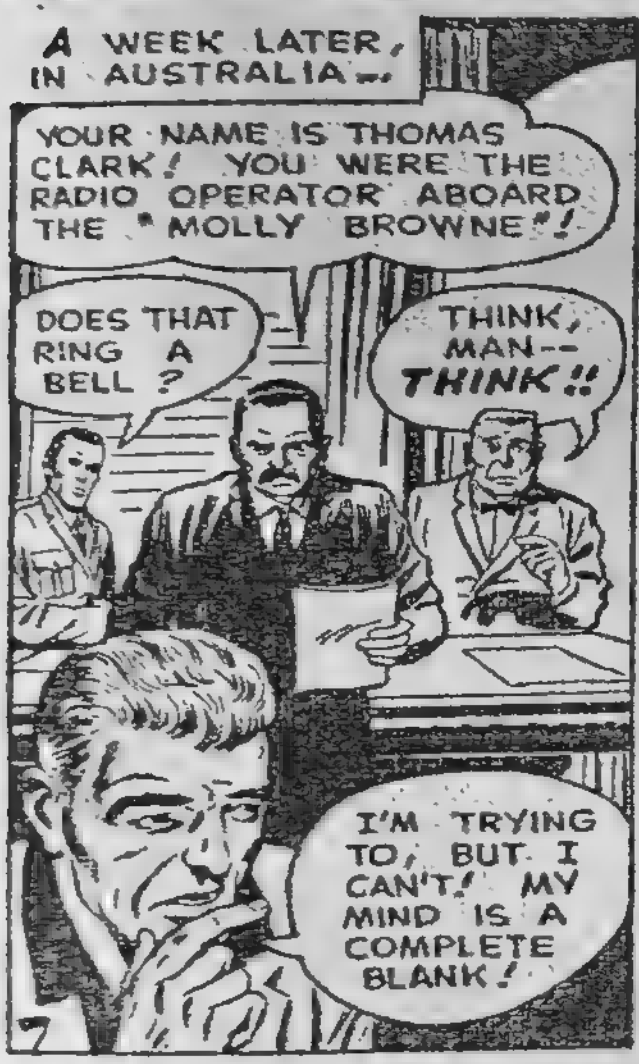
HEY-- I FOUND SOMEONE!

WHO ARE YOU??

WHAT HAPPENED HERE ?? WHERE IS EVERYONE ??

I-- I DON'T KNOW! I CAN'T REMEMBER...

YOU MUST KNOW HOW THE CREW VANISHED! TELL US!
I'VE LOST MY MEMORY! I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING!
OKAY, MEN-- WE'LL LET A BOARD OF INQUIRY HANDLE IT!
START UP THE ENGINES!


A WEEK LATER, IN AUSTRALIA...
YOUR NAME IS THOMAS CLARK! YOU WERE THE RADIO OPERATOR ABOARD THE "MOLLY BROWNE"!
DOES THAT RING A BELL?
THINK, MAN-- THINK!!
I'M TRYING TO, BUT I CAN'T! MY MIND IS A COMPLETE BLANK!

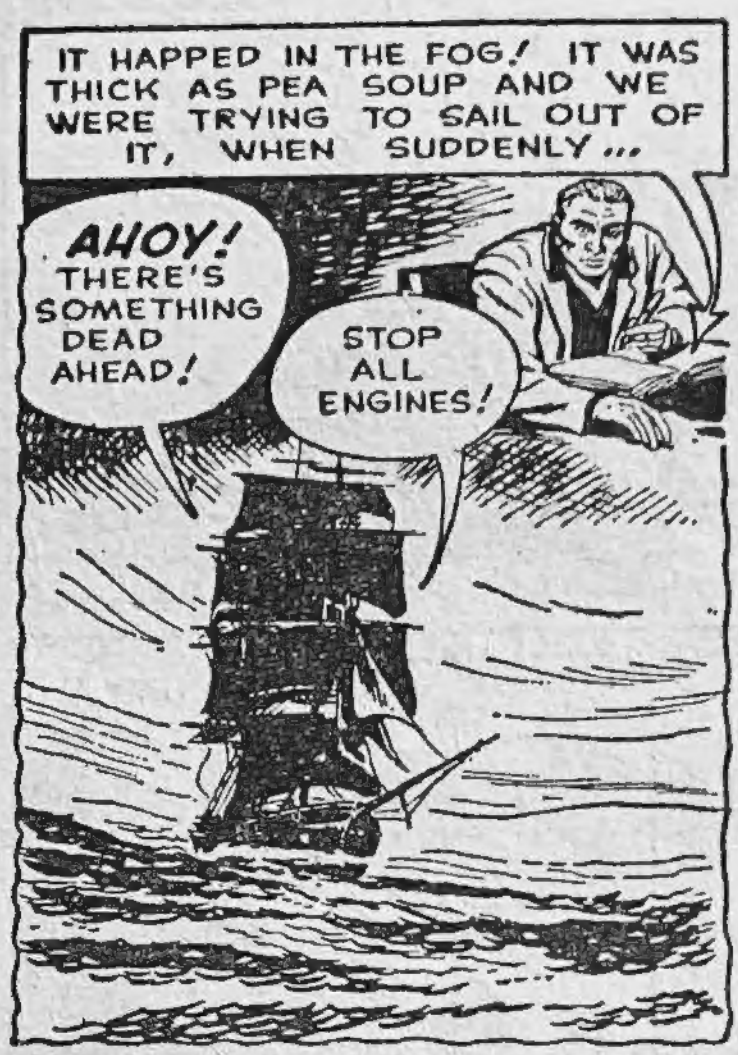
IT'S USELESS!
THE SHOCK OF WHATEVER HAPPENED MUST HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR HIM! IT LEFT HIM WITH TOTAL AMNESIA!
ALL RIGHT, CLARK... YOU MAY GO!

WELL, WE'VE GOT A FIRST CLASS MYSTERY ON OUR HANDS!
AND I DON'T KNOW HOW WE CAN EVEN BEGIN TO SOLVE IT!

BUT NOW, LET US FOLLOW TOM CLARK TO HIS ROOM...
THANK HEAVENS THEY BELIEVED MY AMNESIA STORY!

I HAD TO TELL THEM THAT, FOR IF I TOLD THEM WHAT REALLY HAPPENED ABOARD THE "MOLLY BROWNE," THEY'D THINK I WAS MAD!

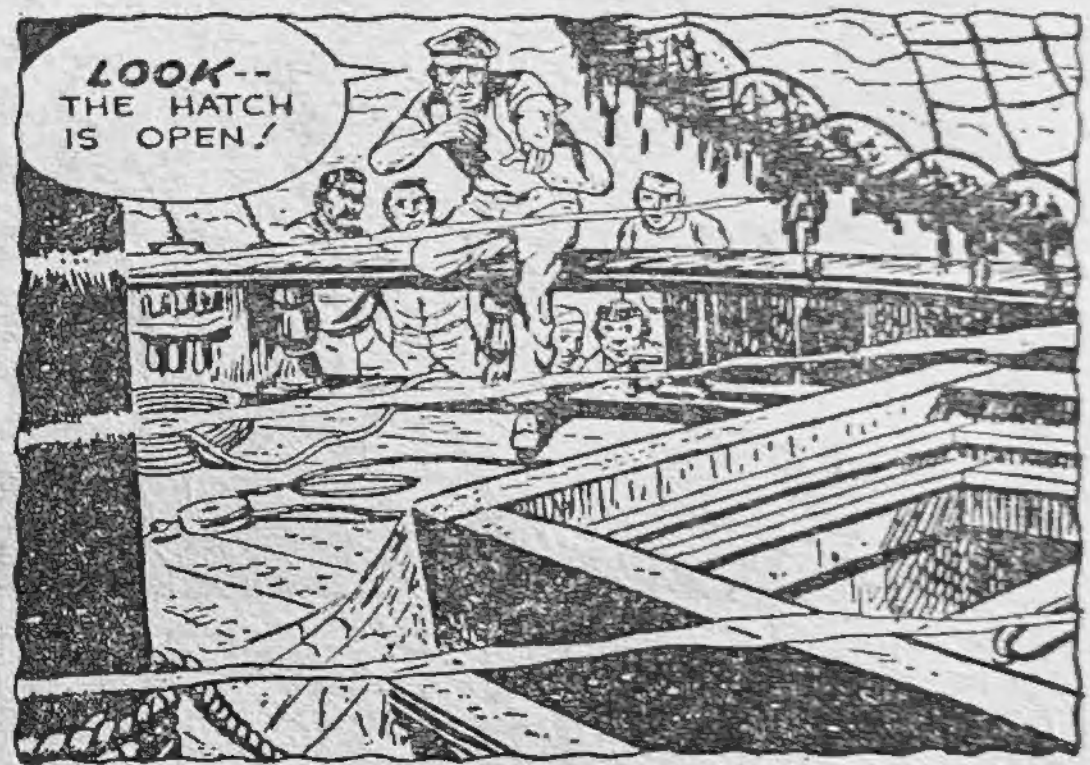
BUT, IN SOME FUTURE YEAR, MANKIND MAY PROGRESS ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND THE NIGHTMARE THAT HAPPENED OUT AT SEA! AND WHEN THEY DO, THEY WILL FIND THIS RECORD OF THE FANTASTIC EVENTS!
DIARY


IT HAPPED IN THE FOG! IT WAS THICK AS PEA SOUP AND WE WERE TRYING TO SAIL OUT OF IT, WHEN SUDDENLY...
AHOY! THERE'S SOMETHING DEAD AHEAD!
STOP ALL ENGINES!

IT-- IT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF ANCIENT SCHOONER!
THERE'S A NAME ON HER...

BY THE BEARD OF DAVY JONES, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A LEGEND! BUT IT ISN'T!
IT'S REAL! AS REAL AS THE SEA ITSELF!!
THE FLYING DUTCHMAN!

ACCORDING TO THE ANCIENT TALE, THE "DUTCHMAN" CARRIED GOLD!
COME ON-- LET'S GO ABOARD AND SEARCH HER!


LOOK-- THE HATCH IS OPEN!

THOSE SACKS DOWN THERE-- THEY'RE FULL OF GOLD!!
WE'RE RICH!! RICH!!

WAIT-- WHAT'S THAT CREAKY SOUND??
IT'S-- IT'S----

GHOSTS!
THEY'RE THE SPIRITS WHO SAIL THE "FLYING DUTCHMAN"!
THEY'RE COMING RIGHT THROUGH THE WALLS!

LET THE GOLD REMAIN AS IT IS!
DO NOT LOOT OUR SHIP!
EASY, MATES! DON'T BE AFRAID! THEY'RE ONLY GHOSTS! THEY CAN'T HARM US!
THEY— THEY CAN'T?!

OF COURSE NOT! THEY HAVE NO BODIES -- NO SOLID FORMS! THEY CAN'T EVEN TOUCH US!
NOW COME ON-- LET'S TRANSFER THIS GOLD TO OUR OWN SHIP!

MERCY!-- DO NOT TAKE OUR MOST VALUABLE POSSESSION!
WE BESEECH YOU... LEAVE THE GOLD WHERE IT IS!
HA HA! LISTEN TO THEM WHINE!
WE'RE ALL GONNA BE RICH!

SAY, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, TOM?? WHY AREN'T YOU GRABBING SOME SACKS??
I-- I DON'T WANT ANY OF THE GOLD! IT BELONGS TO THE GHOSTS!
BAH! DON'T BE A SUCKER! IT'S OURS FOR THE TAKING!

NO! I WON'T STEAL THE GOLD! YOU MEN CAN TAKE IT IF YOU WANT, BUT NOT ME!
THAT'S FINE WITH US! IT MEANS THERE'LL BE THAT MUCH MORE FOR ME AND THE BOYS!!

AND SO I TURNED AND LEFT...

AND HOW LUCKY IT WAS FOR ME THAT I DIDN'T STEAL ANY OF THAT GOLD...
BECAUSE...

...AFTER THE MEN RETURNED TO THE "MOLLY BROWNE"...
HA HA! THIS IS THE LAST VOYAGE I'LL EVER HAVE TO MAKE!
HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME ??! I'M... CHANGING!!

GASP! SO AM I!!
I- I CAN'T KEEP MYSELF FROM VANISHING!!
IT'S HAPPENING TO ME, TOO!!
NO! NO!

AND, A MOMENT LATER, IT WAS ALL OVER! MY CAPTAIN-- THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CREW-- THEY HAD ALL BECOME--- GHOSTS!!!

AND THEN I HEARD THE VOICES! I TURNED...
YOU WERE WISE NOT TO TAKE OUR GOLD, MORTAL! FOR IT WAS MERELY--- BAIT!
YOU SEE, THE CREW OF THE FLYING DUTCHMAN MUST SAIL THE SEVEN SEAS UNTIL IT CAN FIND ANOTHER SHIP, MANNED BY AN EVIL CREW, TO TAKE ITS PLACE!

AND NOW AT LAST WE HAVE FOUND SUCH A CREW! OUR ORDEAL IS ENDED!
NOW WE CAN RETURN TO THE BEYOND AND REMAIN THERE--- FOREVERMORE!
FAREWELL!

AND THOUGH THE WORLD MAY THINK THAT THE "MOLLY BROWNE" IS A DESERTED SHIP, YOU AND I KNOW SHE IS NOT! WE KNOW SHE HAS A CREW! AN UNSEEN CREW...
DIARY

...GHOSTS WHO ARE DOOMED TO REMAIN ABOARD HER UNTIL THE DAY THEY FIND ANOTHER EVIL CREW TO TAKE THEIR PLACE! FOR SUCH IS THE LEGEND OF THE FLYING DUTCHMAN!
the END

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OUT OF THIS WORLD

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WEIRD PLANETS

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW